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Archie
COMICS

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THE PUNISHER

MEETS

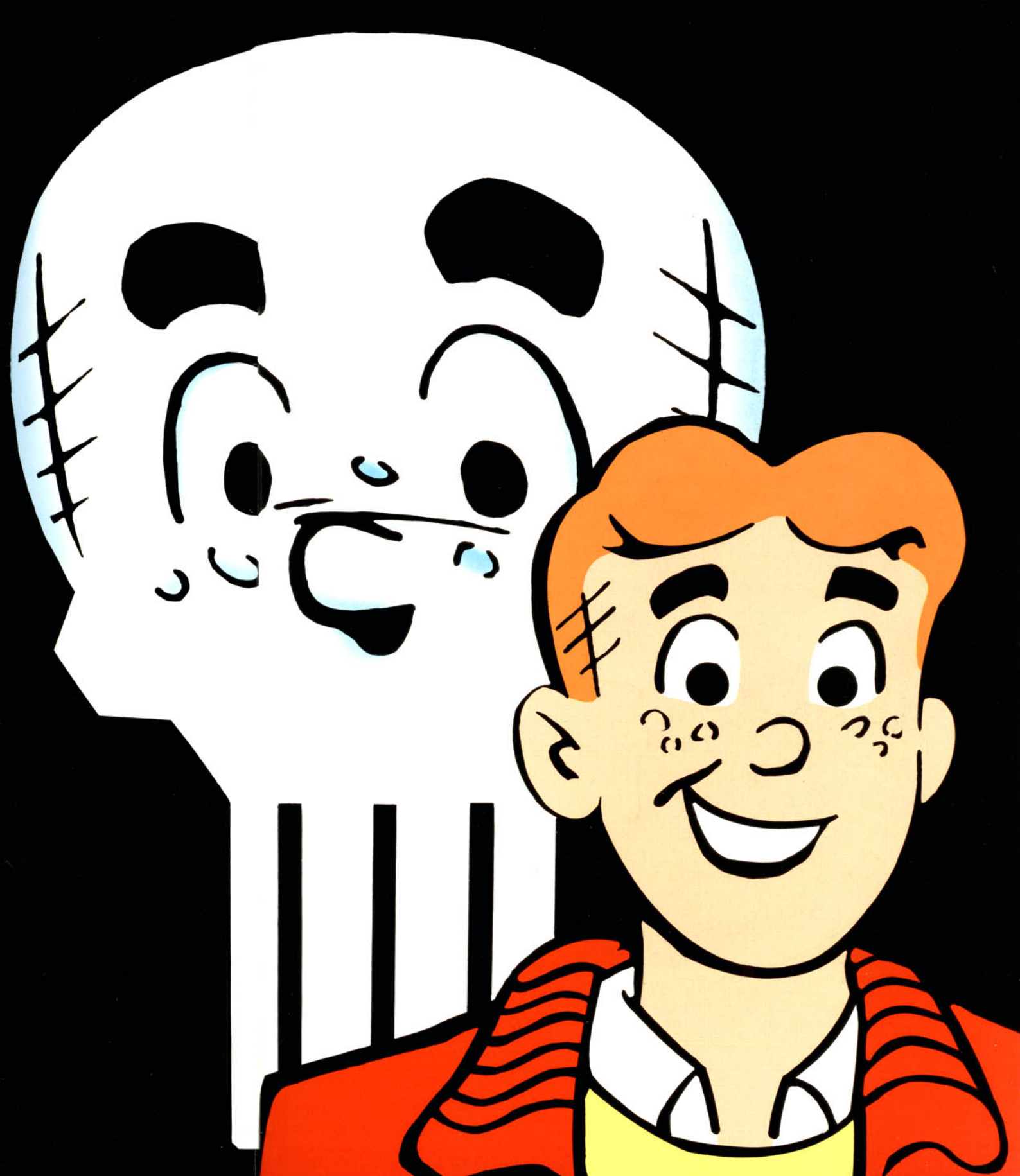
Archie

48 PAGES!

NO ADS!



THE
CROSSOVER
YOU'VE BEEN
DREADING!



THE PUNISHER Archie®

"WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE"

BATTON LASH

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JOHN BUSCEMA

PUNISHER ARTIST

STAN GOLDBERG

ARCHIE ARTIST

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INKER

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INTRODUCTION: ARCHIE MEETS THE PUNISHER



It started as a joke. It was an idea that would capture the attention of comic book collectors, an idea that had the potential to send our sales through the roof. The publishers at Archie Comics, which are Richard Goldwater and Michael Silberkleit, liked the big sales part but hesitated at the storyline. It went something like this:

Archie arrives at good ol' Riverdale High. Security people are installing metal detectors. Kids have been coming to school with weapons. When he arrives home, he notices the door has been left open. The house has been ransacked. There's blood everywhere. His parents have been massacred. The police aren't doing much. After all, this happens all the time. Archie enlists the aid of The Punisher. . .time to get even.

While this does seem to be what's popular, the idea was denied serious consideration. . .I wonder why? We revived the publishers, Richard & Michael, by pouring Gatorade all over them. I'm told, it makes you feel like a winner.

However, when I related this story to Batton Lash (creator of Wolf & Byrd, Counselors of the Macabre) and how I'd love to do something with this, he said, "I think I can do it. Let me give it a try."

And so, in a dimly lit San Diego restaurant, amidst messy sparerib bones and dirty napkins, "Project A" was born.



INTRODUCTION: THE PUNISHER MEETS ARCHIE



I thought it was a joke.

Victor Gorelick and I have been joking with each other for over twenty years. He's the guy who gave me my first job in the comic book industry. (Remember that! Victor trained me. He taught me everything I know. . .but, sadly, not everything he knows. Write to him and complain the next time you read something in a Marvel Comic which annoys you. It'll serve him right for not preparing me better!)



Anyway, the proposal for what we eventually began to call "Project A" arrived completely without warning. It consisted of a quick note from Victor, a short synopsis and two cover sketches.

Hearing me laugh out loud and fearing that I had finally flipped, Senior Executive Editor Mark Gruenwald stuck his head into my office. While he was laughing at the covers, I read the synopsis. Batton Lash had done the impossible, effortlessly mixing two wildly disparate universes while completely respecting the integrity of each individual character. Wow!

I immediately rushed the proposal over to Punisher overlord Don Daley. He loved it.

So did publisher Mike Hobson and president Terry Stewart.

Later that same day, I called Victor to inform him of Marvel's desire to pursue this project, our first major crossover with another comic book company in many a year.

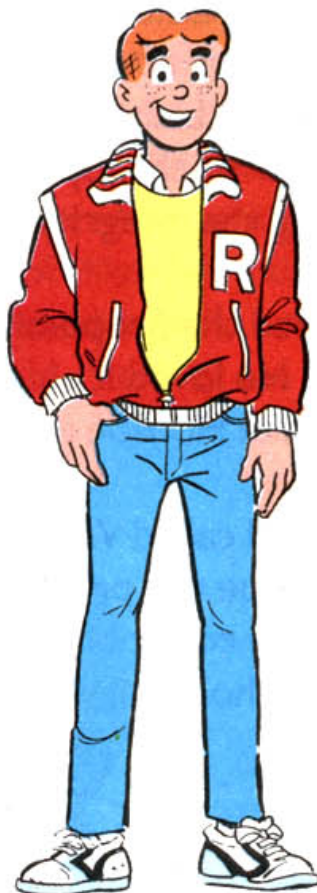
Needless to say, he thought I was joking.

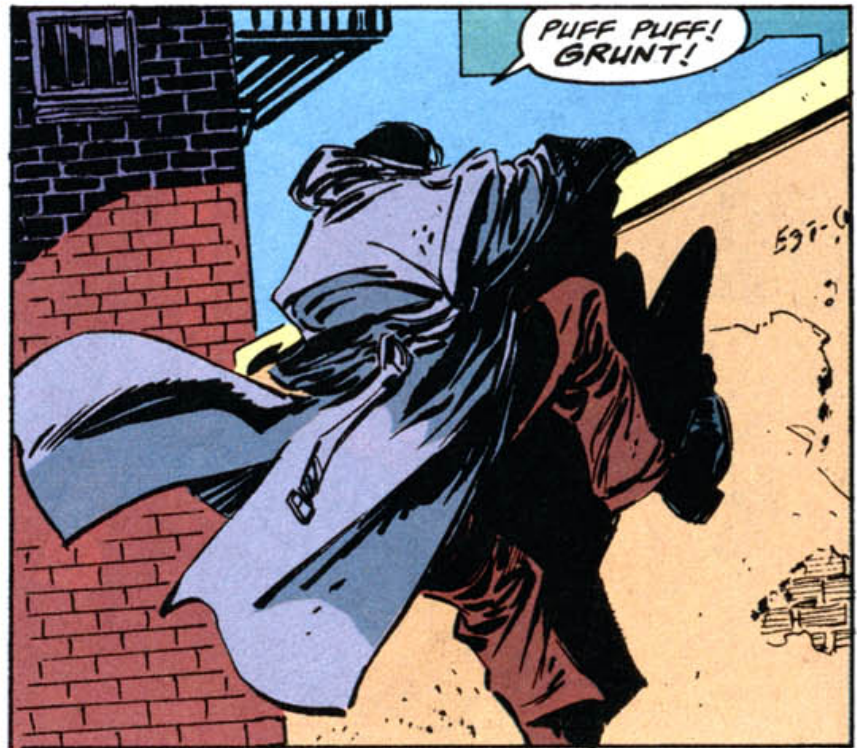
Tom

When Frank Castle witnessed the death of his family at the hands of the criminal syndicate, he vowed that innocent people would never again suffer his wife's and children's fates. Using his lethal training as a Marine, Castle wages a private war against those who would break the law...letting the punishment fit the crime. Enter the world of the Punisher.

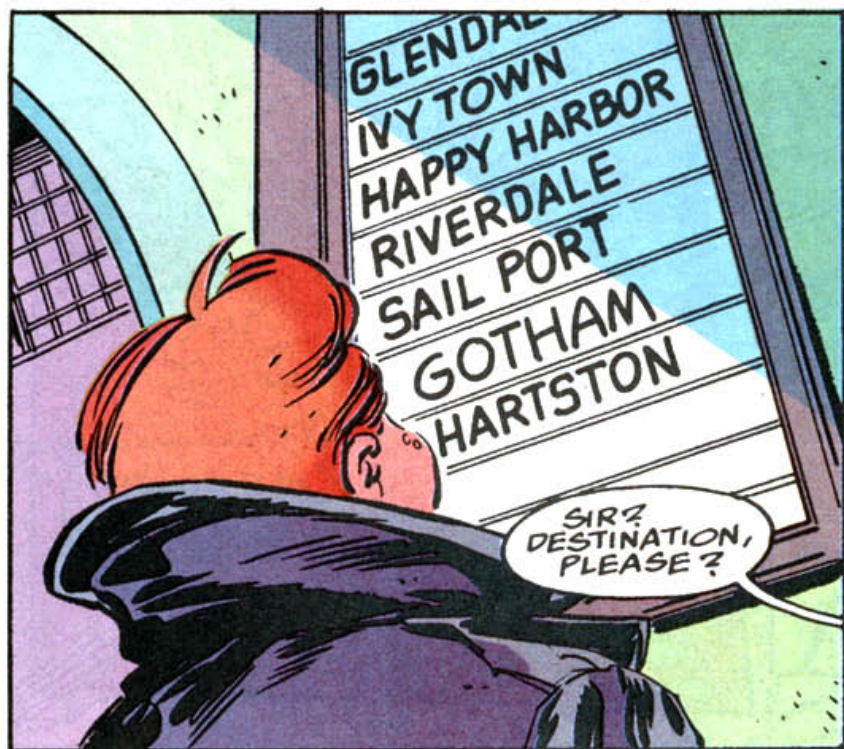
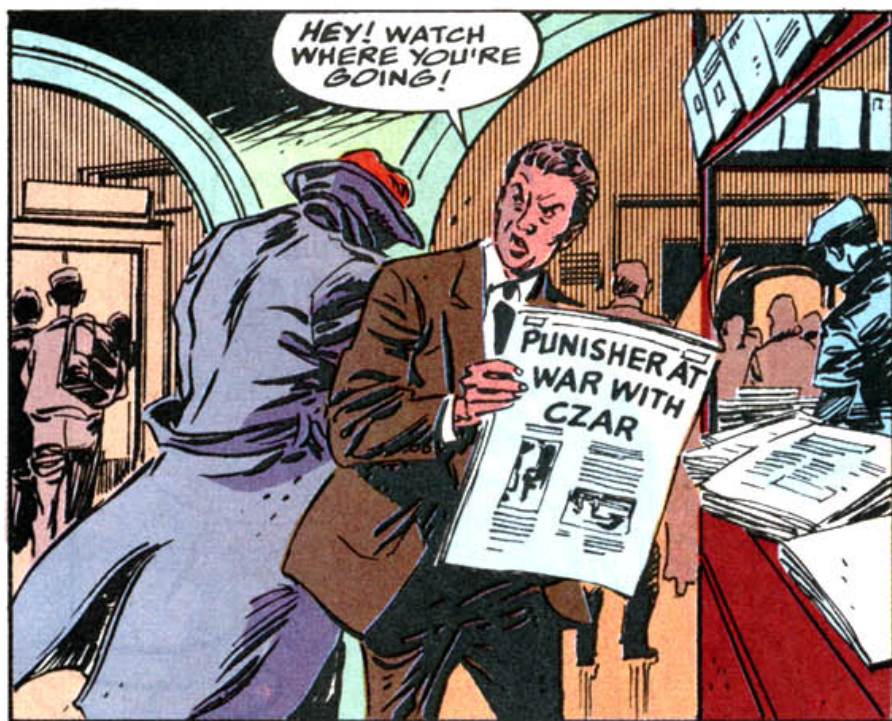
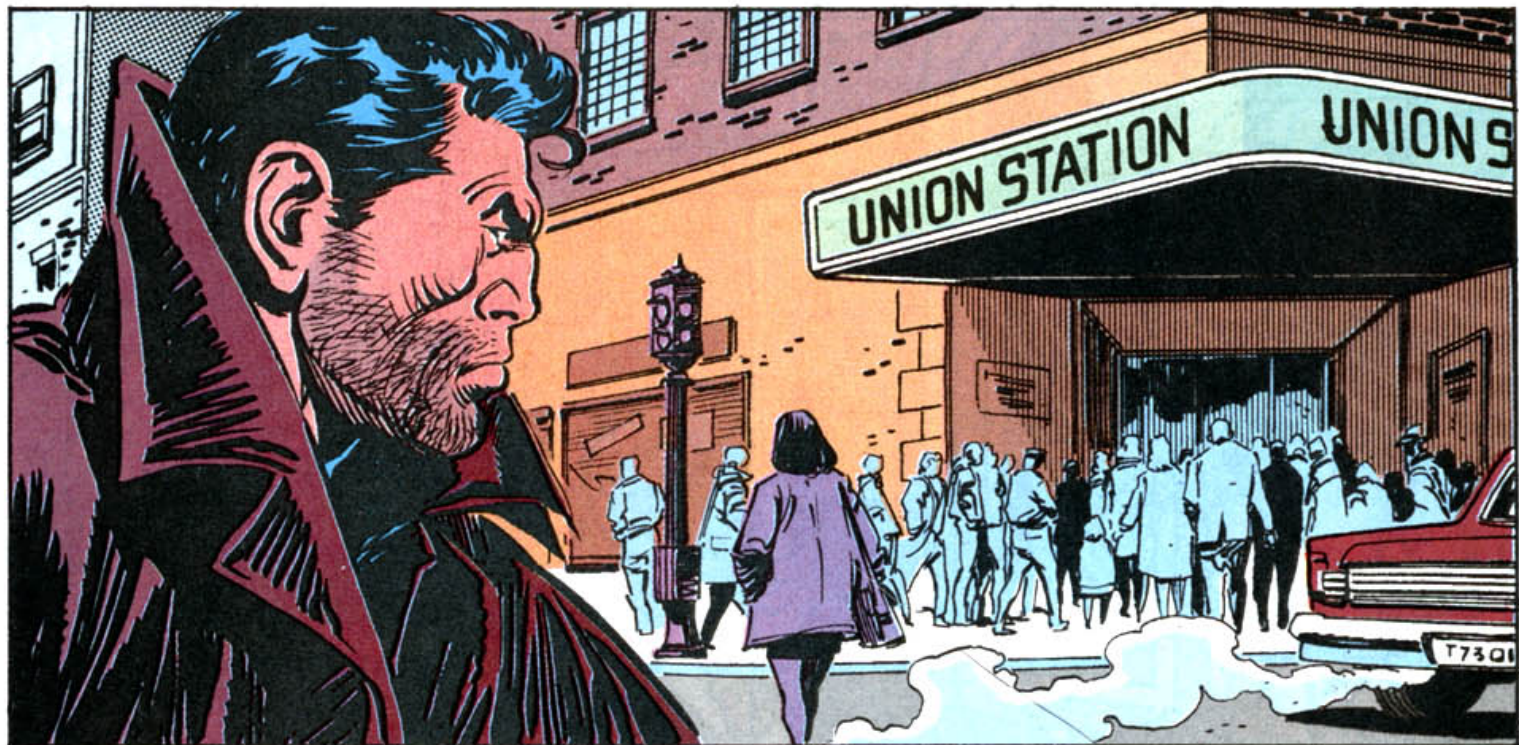


Archie has often been described as the typical American teenager: always asking too many questions, always getting into trouble, intensely loyal to his parents, his school and his community, which in Archie's case is Riverdale, U.S.A. Archie's plight in matters of the heart is adolescently stark. He's torn between two opposing love interests: Betty, "the girl next door", and Veronica, a spoiled daughter of affluence. Enter Riverdale, the world of Archie Andrews.







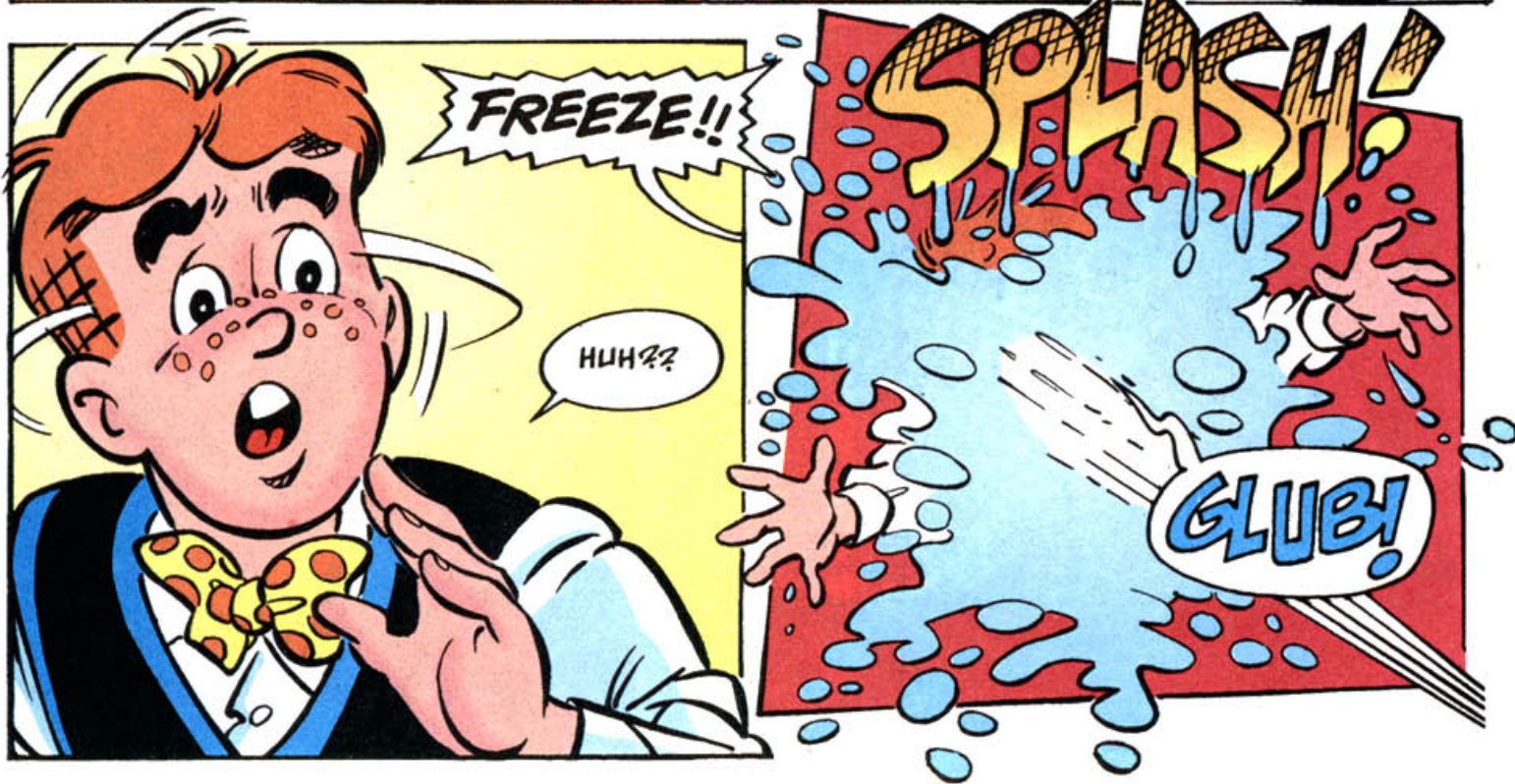
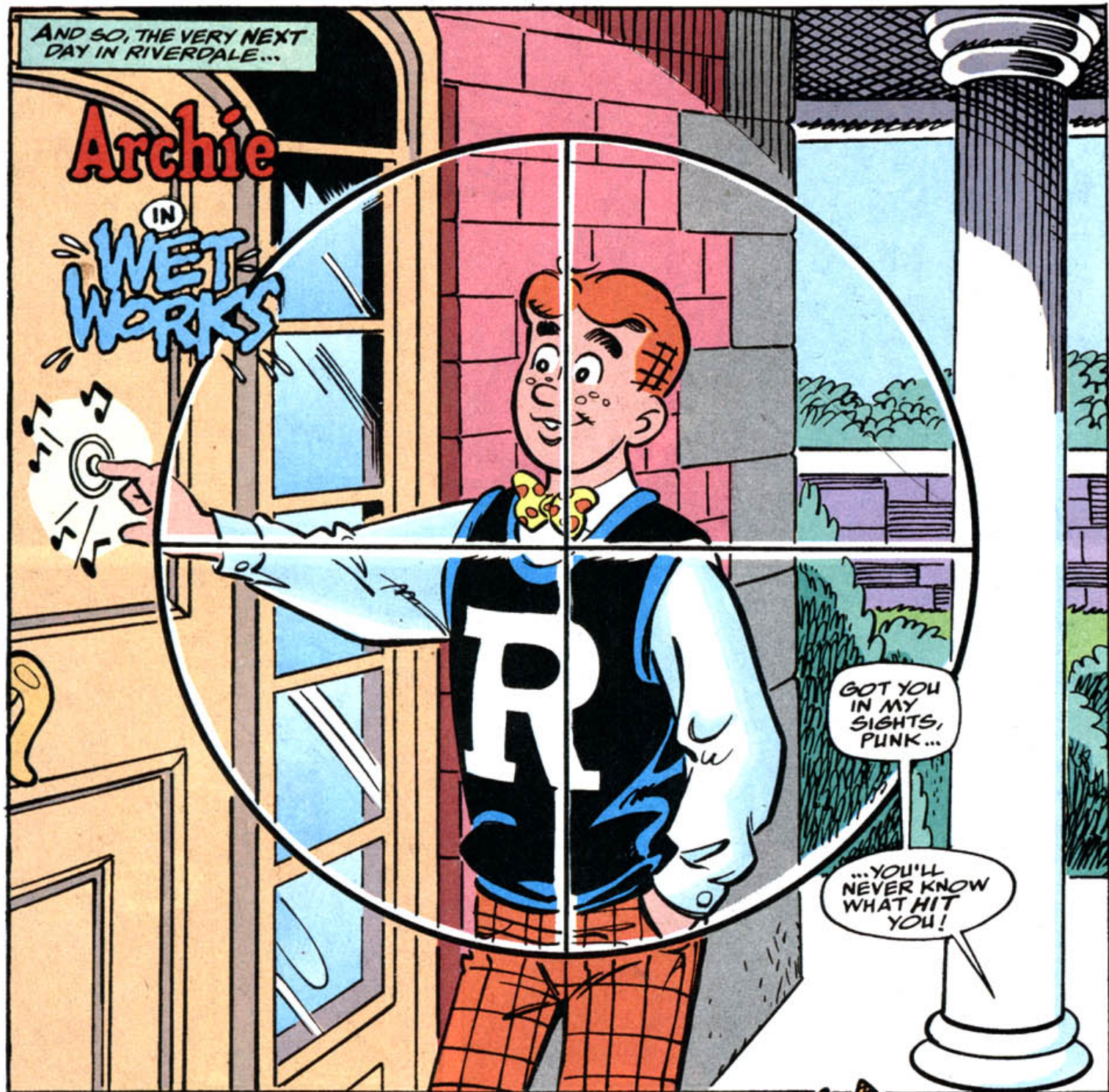


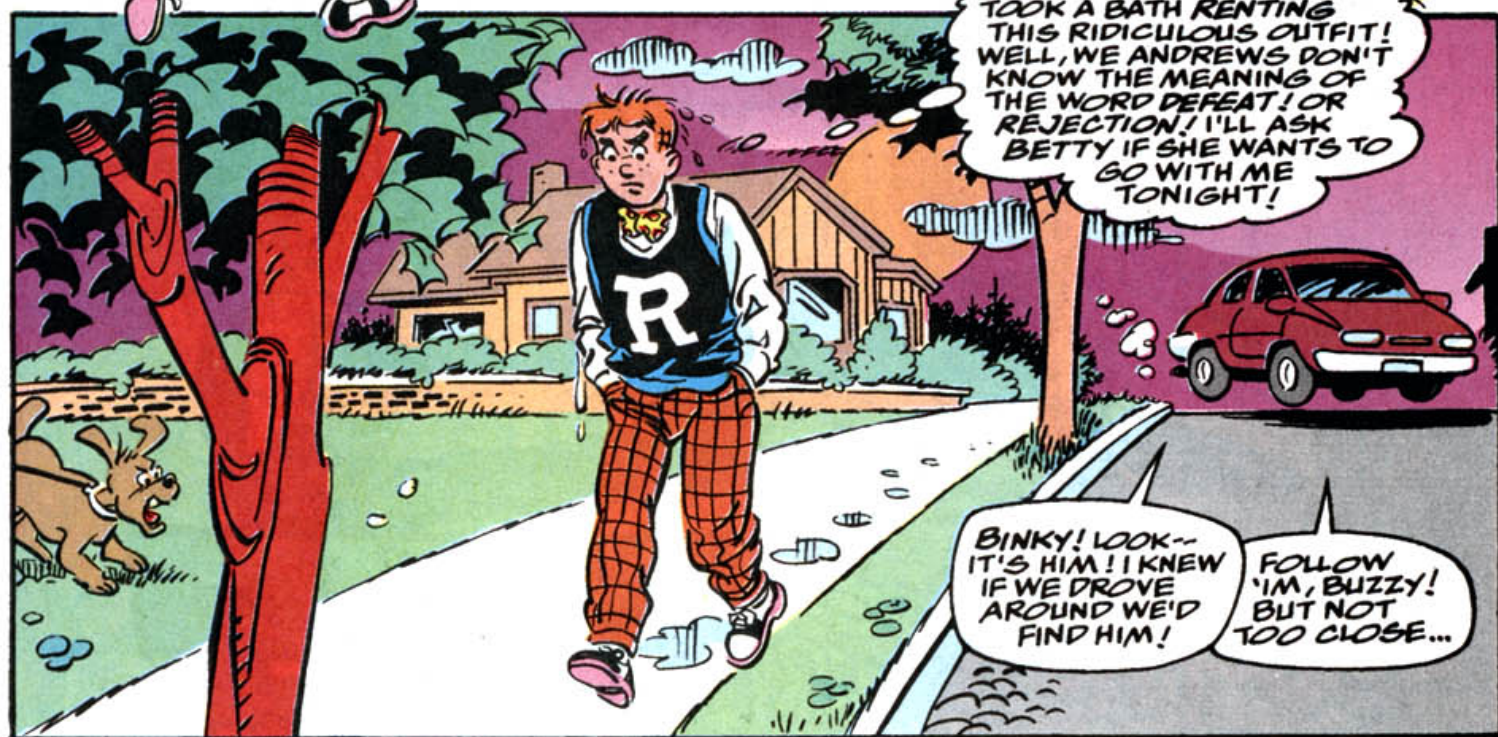
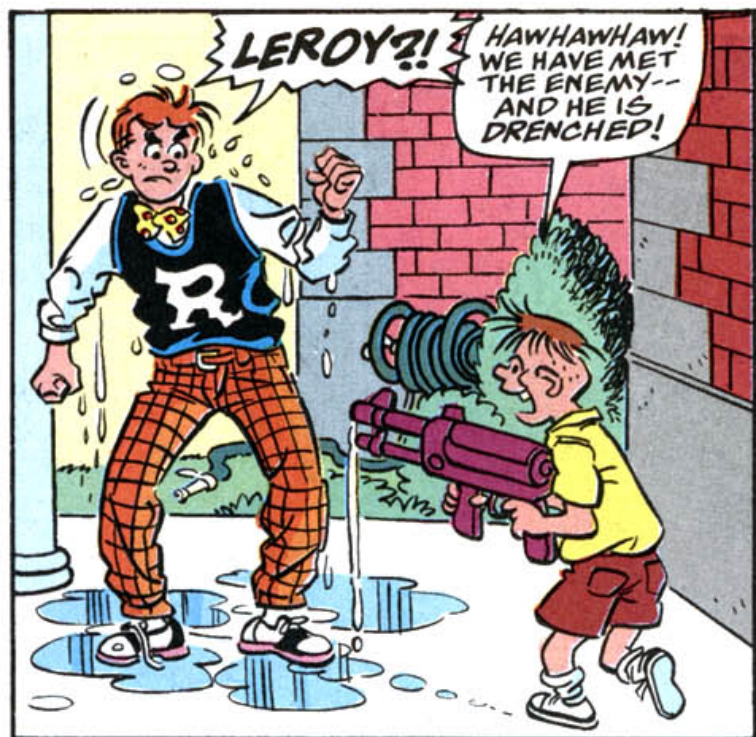
AND SO, THE VERY NEXT
DAY IN RIVERDALE...

Archie

IN

**WET
WORKS**





"--YOU KNOW
HOW DANGEROUS
HE IS!"

HEY--
THAT AIN'T
FUNNY!

ON THE
CONTRARY--

HEY,
KIDS!
COMICS

FLIP MASON TRIBUTE SAT.NITE

--THIS'LL
KILL
YOU!

AFTER FRANK CASTLE
WATCHED HIS FAMILY
BE SLAUGHTERED BY
THE MOB, HE VOWED TO
WAGE A ONE-MAN WAR
AGAINST CRIME AS--

**THE
PUNISHER**

WAR JOURNAL,
ENTRY 769446:
AFTER QUARRY ELUDED
ME IN CITY, I PICK UP
HIS TRAIL IN SUBURBS.
DATA ON QUARRY SAYS
HE ONCE RAN RACKETS
WITH PROPRIETOR
OF COMEDY CLUB. YOU
COULD SAY THAT I
PULLED NAME OF
ESTABLISHMENT OUT
OF A HAT...

SCHTICK TO YOUR GUNS!



I'M LOOKING FOR AN ASSO-
CIATE OF YOURS-- MEL
JAY... aka MONTANA
BOB aka FRECKLES
--CURRENTLY
KNOWN AS
"RED"
FEVER.

H-HAVEN'T
SEEN 'IM.
LOOK I'M
LEGIT
NOW...



THINK. JOKE WITH ME, AND
YOU'LL BE LAUGHING YOUR
HEAD OFF.

OKAY, OKAY!
HE CALLED
EARLIER. WAN-
TED TO COME
BY-- I SAID
FORGET IT.
TOO BUSY
LINING UP
COMICS.

I'M
SERIOUS!



HE SAID HE WAS IN RIVER-
DALE-- SAID HE WANTED
TO ESTABLISH HIS TURF
HERE-- AND THAT'S
ALL I KNOW!

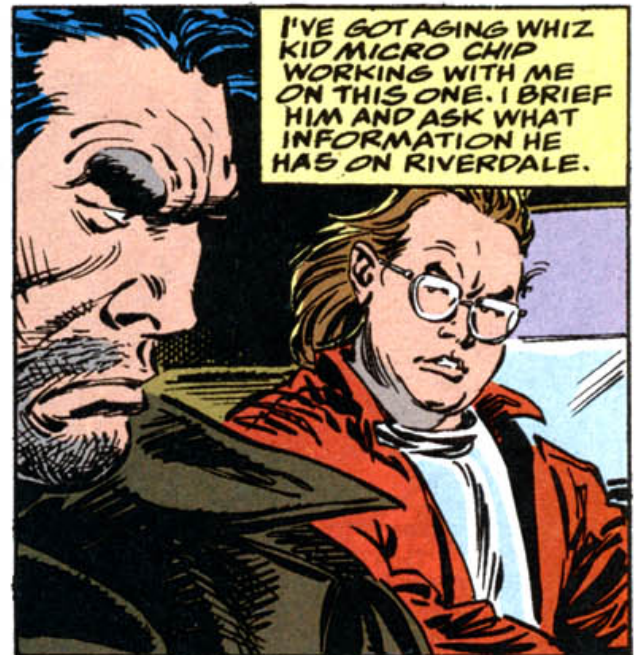
HERE'S
WHAT
YOU'RE
GONNA
DO, PINKY--



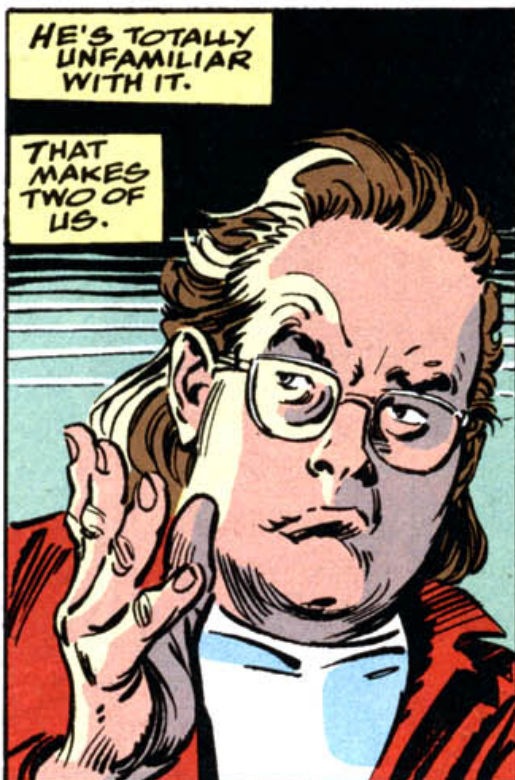
--YOU'RE GONNA FORGET THIS
CONVERSATION, OR ELSE I'LL
RETURN WITH A REAL SNAPPY
COMEBACK.

I GET
IT!!
I GET
IT!!

WAR JOURNAL ENTRY 1241:
SENSED SWEATY PIG WAS
TELLING THE TRUTH.

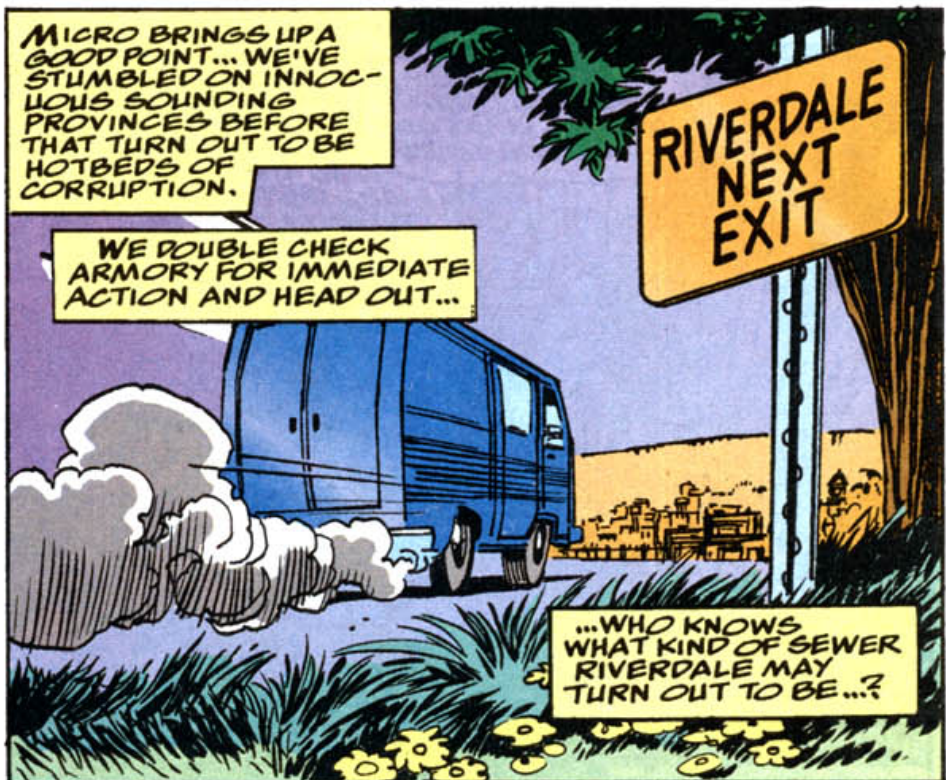


I'VE GOT AGING WHIZ
KID MICRO CHIP
WORKING WITH ME
ON THIS ONE. I BRIEF
HIM AND ASK WHAT
INFORMATION HE
HAS ON RIVERDALE.



HE'S TOTALLY
UNFAMILIAR
WITH IT.

THAT
MAKES
TWO OF
US.

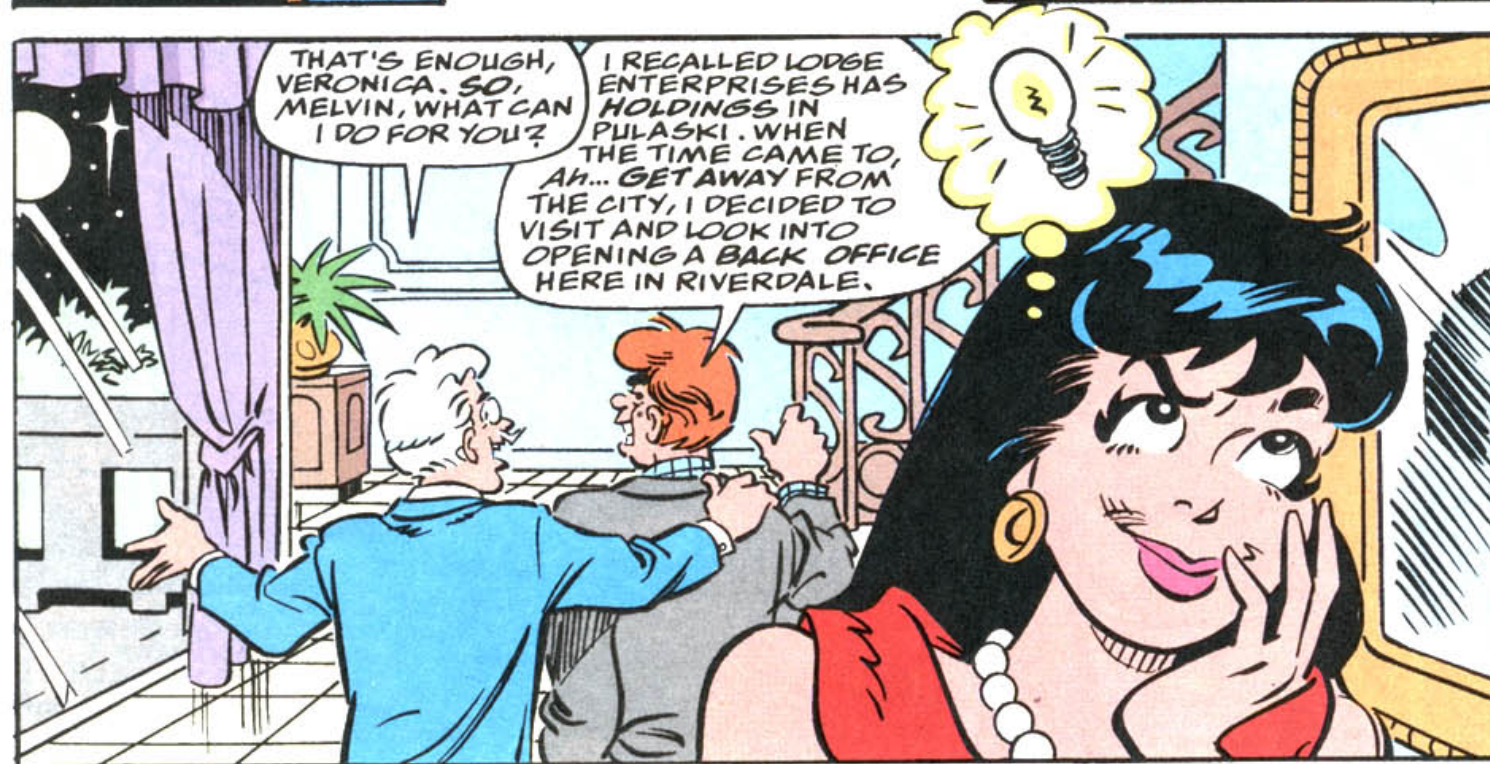


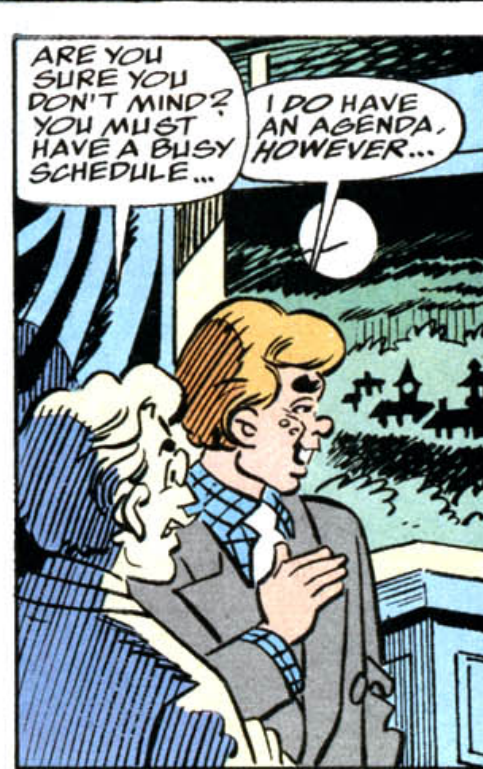
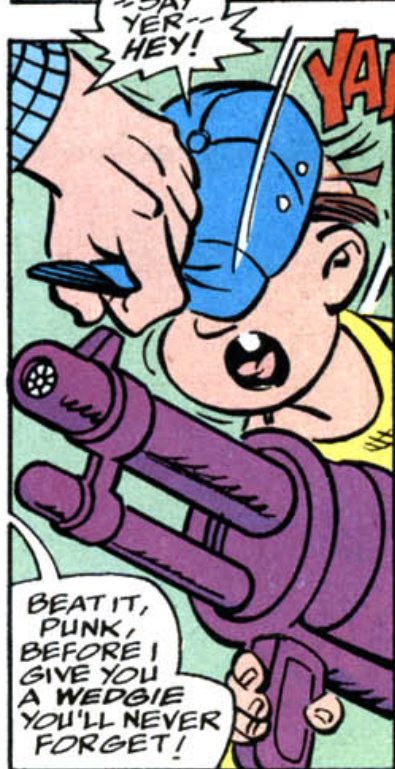
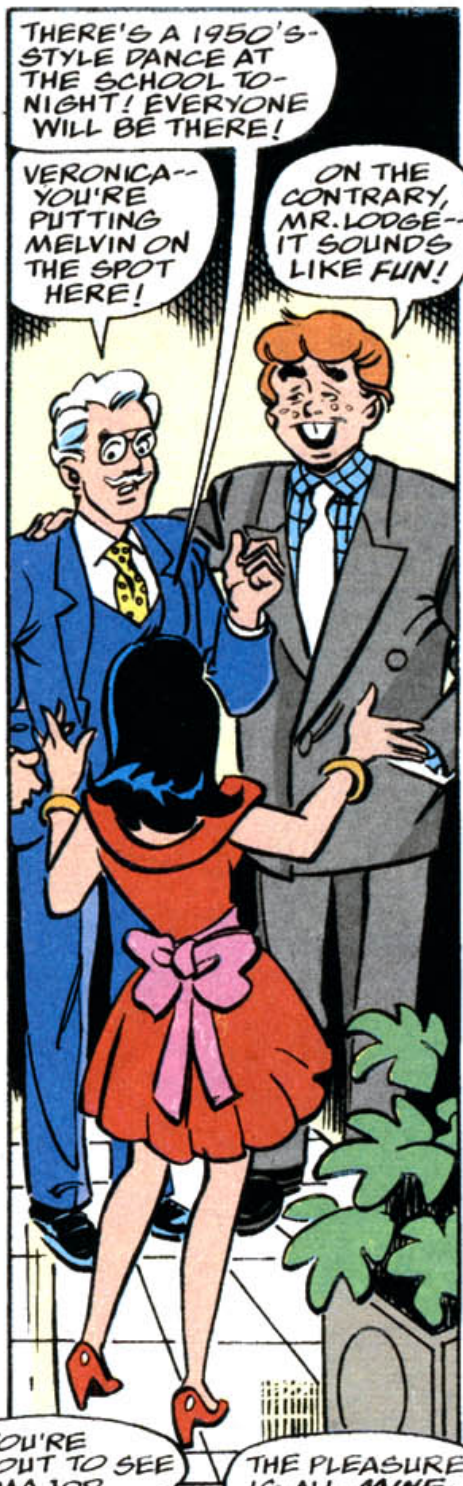
MICRO BRINGS UP A
GOOD POINT... WE'VE
STUMBLERD ON INNOC-
UOUS SOUNDING
PROVINCES BEFORE
THAT TURN OUT TO BE
HOTBEDS OF
CORRUPTION.

WE DOUBLE CHECK
ARMORY FOR IMMEDIATE
ACTION AND HEAD OUT...

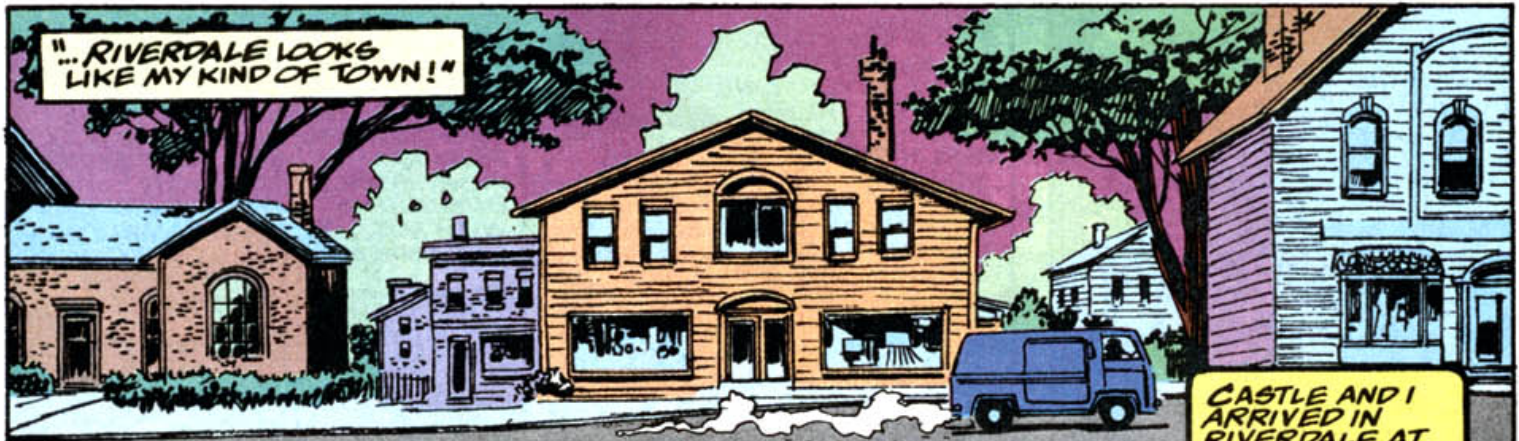
RIVERDALE
NEXT
EXIT

...WHO KNOWS
WHAT KIND OF SEWER
RIVERDALE MAY
TURN OUT TO BE...?





"... RIVERDALE LOOKS
LIKE MY KIND OF TOWN!"

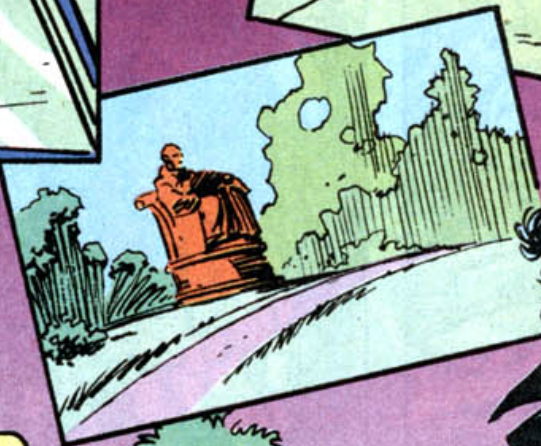


CASTLE AND I
ARRIVED IN
RIVERDALE AT
0200 HOURS...

...CRUISED THE STREETS TO GET LAY OF
THE LAND. CASTLE HAD A FUNNY LOOK IN
HIS EYE; ONE I DON'T SEE VERY OFTEN...

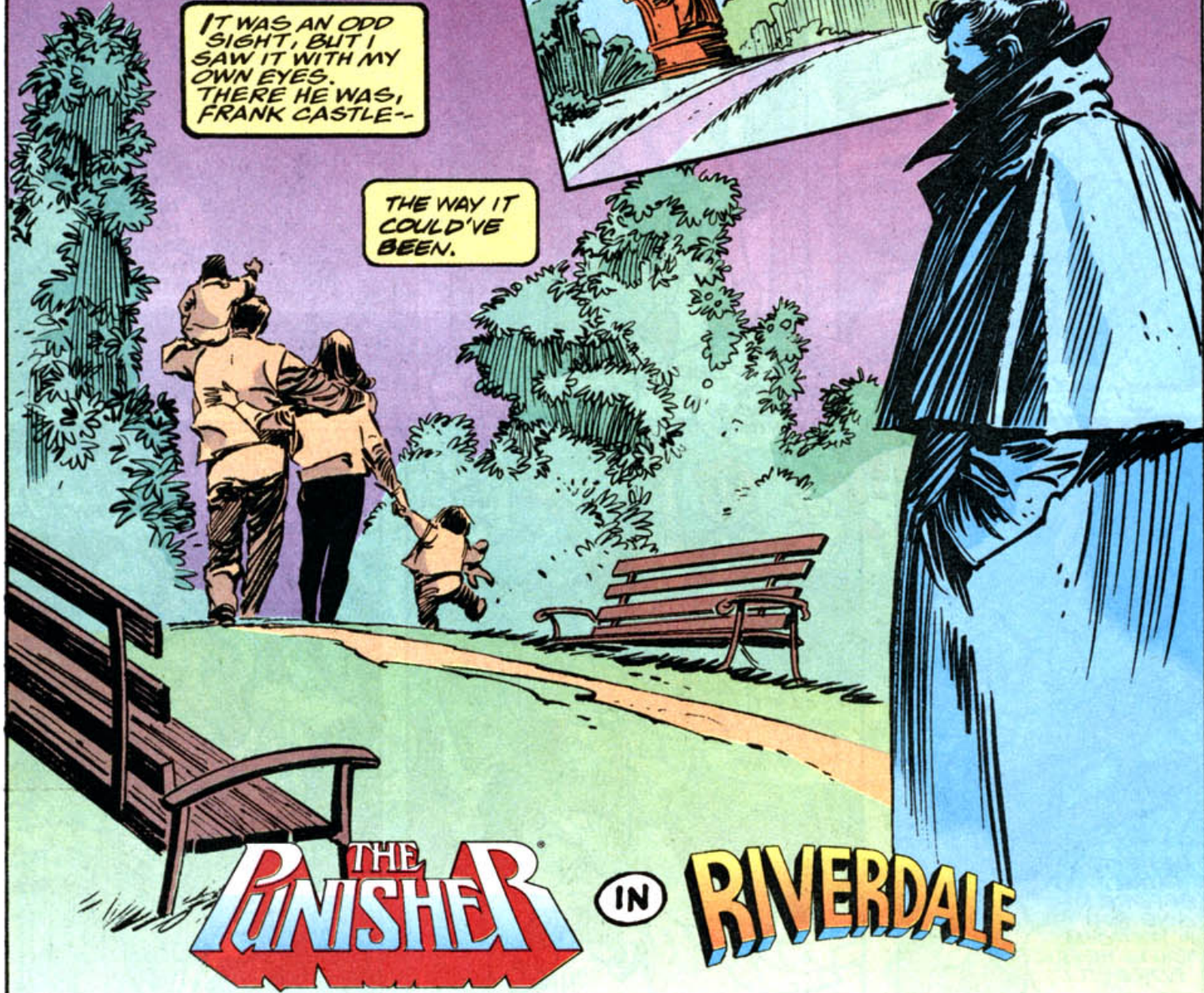


PULL
OVER,
MICRO...



IT WAS AN ODD
SIGHT, BUT I
SAW IT WITH MY
OWN EYES.
THERE HE WAS,
FRANK CASTLE--

THE WAY IT
COULD'VE
BEEN.



THE PUNISHER **IN RIVERDALE**



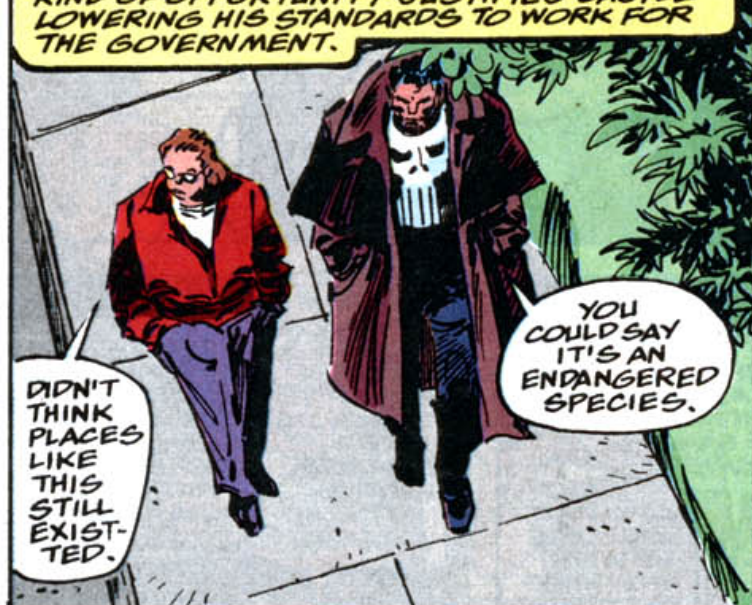
SOME TOWN, EH, FRANK?

CASTLE DIDN'T SAY A WORD. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO. I COULD READ HIS MIND ON THIS ONE. THE FEDS WANT 'RED' FEVER SO BAD, THEY MADE A DEAL WITH CASTLE TO BRING HIM IN - ALIVE.

'RED' FEVER'S BEEN UP AND DOWN THE LADDER AS A DRUGLORD. WHEN ONE BUSINESS CRASHES AND BURNS, HE'S QUICK TO RISE FROM THE ASHES AND START FRESH. HE'S GOT THE FEVER.

CASTLE WILL PLAY BALL BECAUSE HE CAN GET INFORMATION OUT OF RED ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD DEALERS, PUSHERS, AND MOBSTERS ALL ALONG THE EASTERN SEABOARD. THAT KIND OF OPPORTUNITY JUSTIFIES CASTLE LOWERING HIS STANDARDS TO WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

WHETHER HE'S MONTANA BOB, "FRECKLES" BABYFACE OR CEO MELVIN JAY, 'RED' FEVER HAS A REPUTATION AS A SURVIVOR. SOMEONE WHO WILL FIND NEW TURF AND STAKE HIS CLAIM.



DIDN'T THINK PLACES LIKE THIS STILL EXISTED.

YOU COULD SAY IT'S AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.



HEY, LOOK! TREAT YOU TO A MALT, FRANK?

LATER, MICRO...



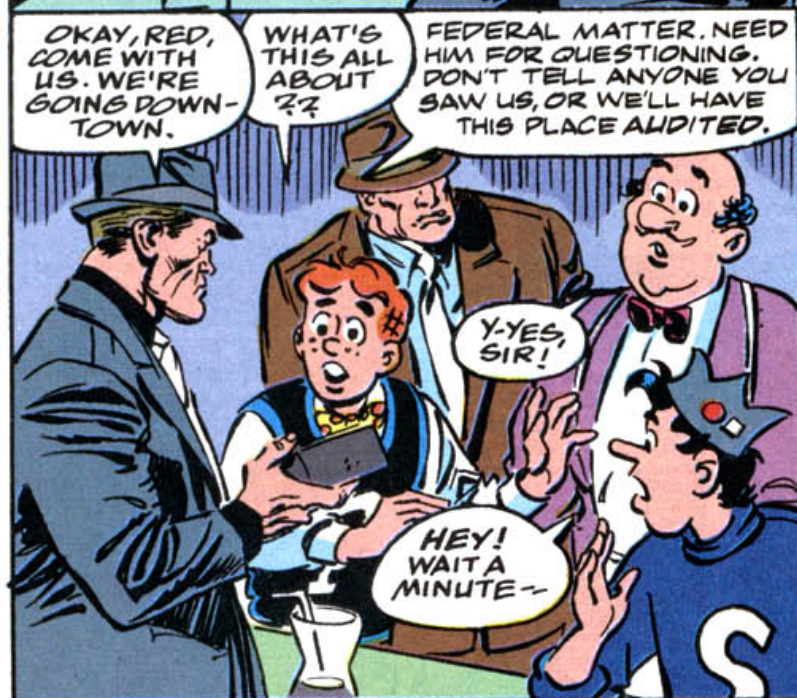
...LET'S FAMILIARIZE OURSELVES WITH THE TOWN, FIRST...

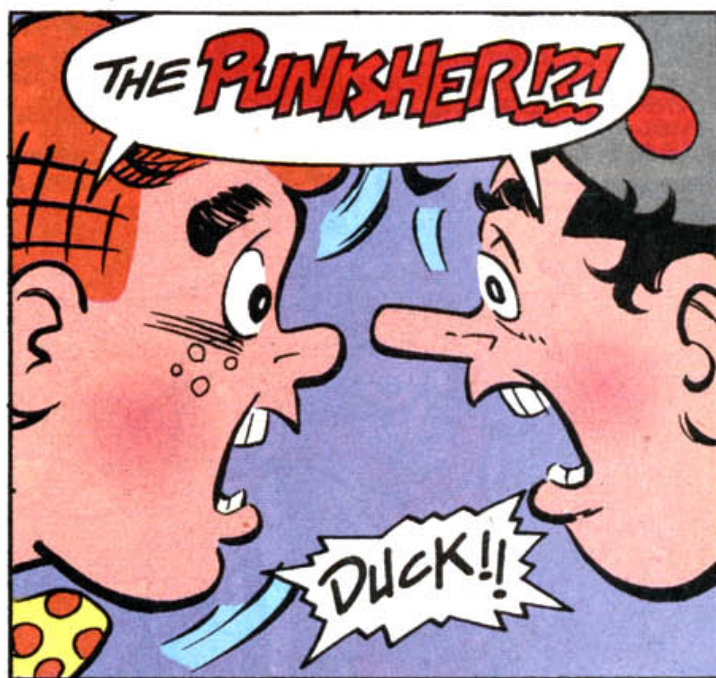
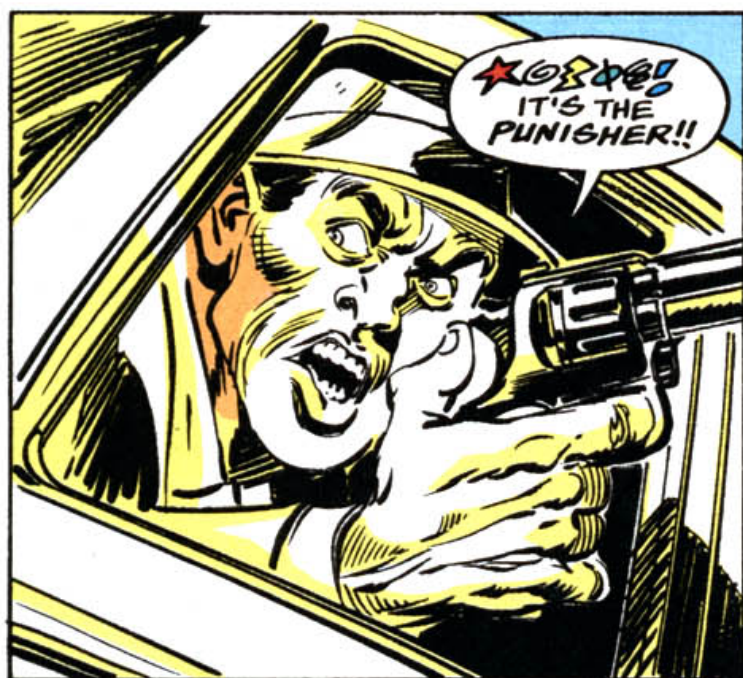
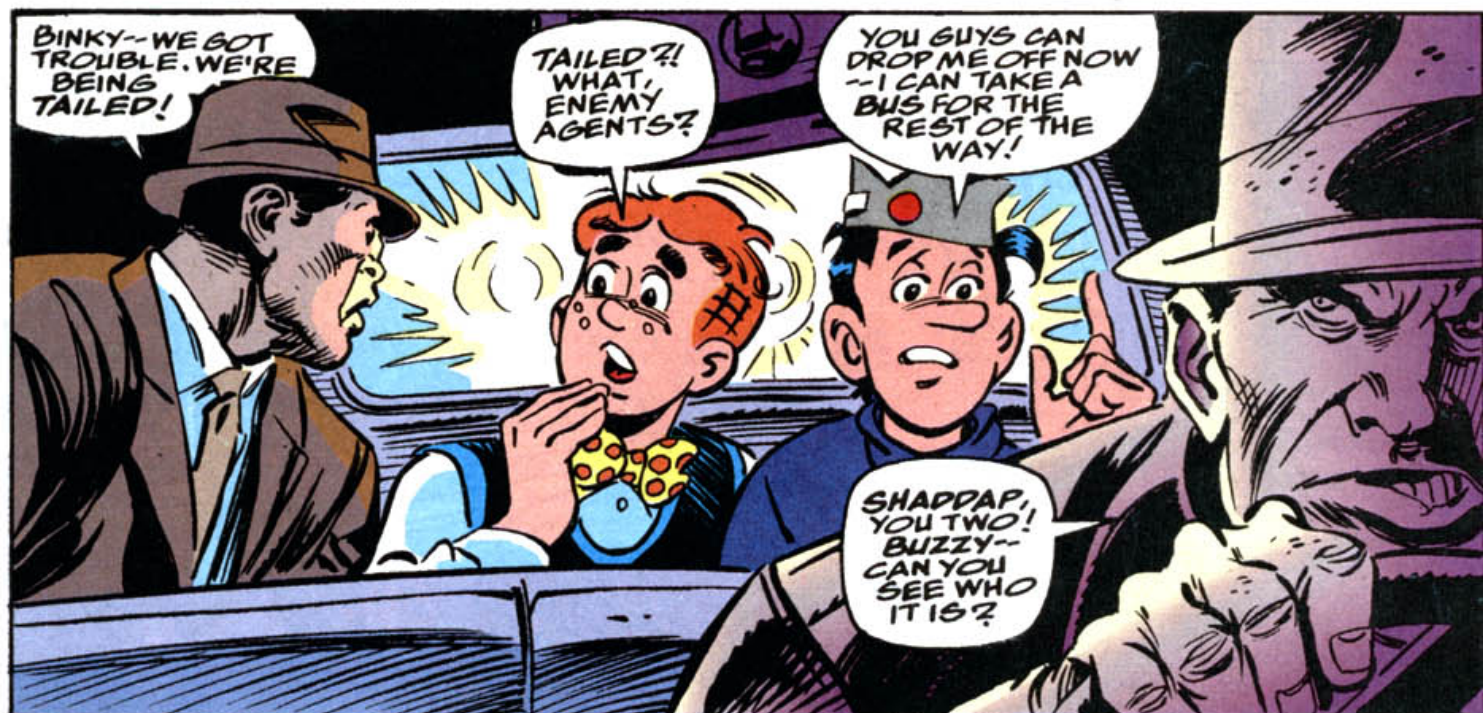
RATS! BETTY'S GONE TO THE HOP ALREADY! PROBABLY WITH REGGIE!

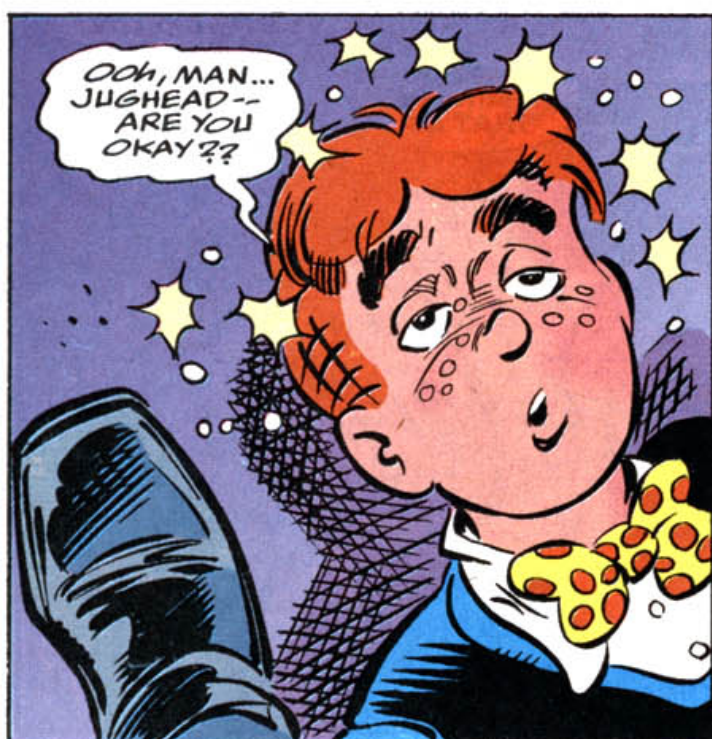
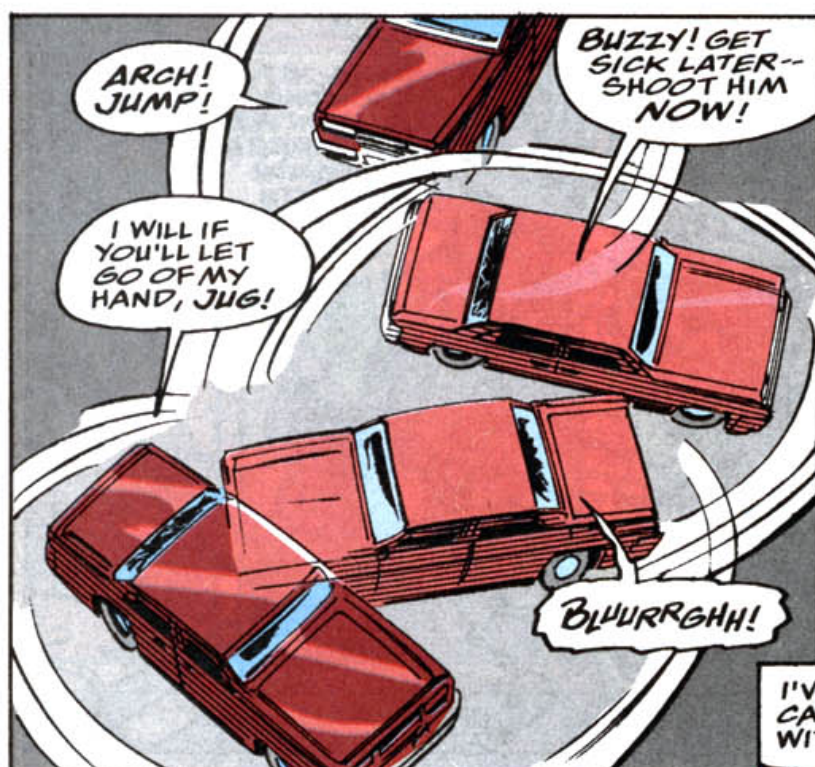
AH, DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, ARCH. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU RAN INTO ME! I'LL GLADLY HELP YOU DROWN YOUR SORROWS!

POP! ANOTHER ROUND!

SURE! AFTER YOU SQUARE YOUR TAB WITH ME, JUG-HEAD!









INCREDIBLE!

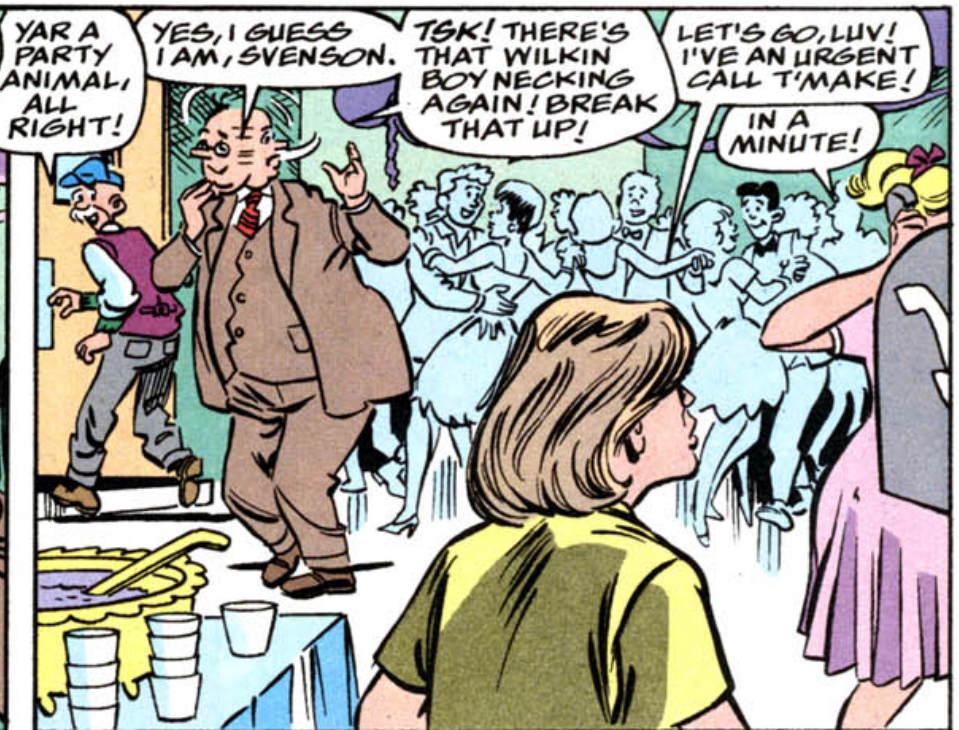
I KNOW THAT
BLOKE--MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
I KNOW SOME
PEOPLE LOOK-
ING FOR HIM
WHO'LL PAY A
NICE FAT
FINDER'S
FEE!

VERY QUANT,
RONNIE. MAYBE
YOU CAN SHOW
ME A MORE...
INTIMATE
PART OF
TOWN?

HEY, SCOOTER!
WE'VE GOT TO
GET READY
FOR THE NEXT
SET!

KEEP
YOUR SHIRT
ON, MATE!! I
JUST HAVE
TO MAKE A
CALL!

SVENSON,
UNLOCK THE
BACK DOOR FOR
THE CATERERS
TO GO BACK
AND FORTH
TO THEIR
TRUCK.



YAH, MR.
VEDDERBEE.
DOT TIME
DO YOU
EXPECT
DANCE TO
END?

TEN P.M. IF THINGS
ARE SVINGING, I
MEAN SWINGING, I
MAY LET IT GO
UNTIL 10:15!

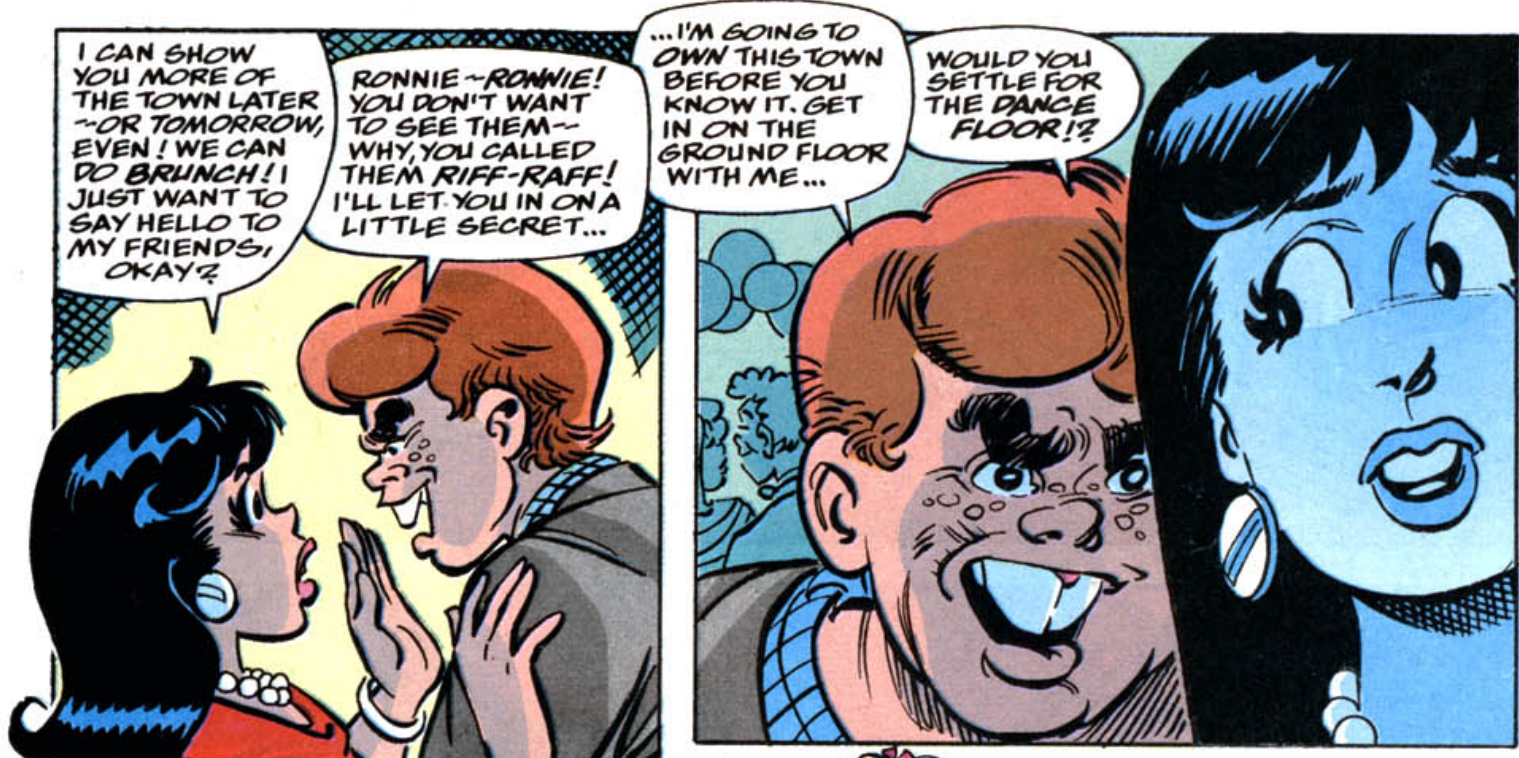
YAR A
PARTY
ANIMAL,
ALL
RIGHT!

YES, I GUESS
I AM, SVENSON.

TSK! THERE'S
THAT WILKIN
BOY NECKING
AGAIN! BREAK
THAT UP!

LET'S GO, LUV!
I'VE AN URGENT
CALL T'MAKE!

IN A
MINUTE!



I CAN SHOW YOU MORE OF THE TOWN LATER --OR TOMORROW, EVEN! WE CAN DO BRUNCH!! I JUST WANT TO SAY HELLO TO MY FRIENDS, OKAY?

RONNIE--RONNIE! YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM-- WHY, YOU CALLED THEM RIFF-RAFF! I'LL LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET...

...I'M GOING TO OWN THIS TOWN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT. GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR WITH ME...

WOULD YOU SETTLE FOR THE DANCE FLOOR!?



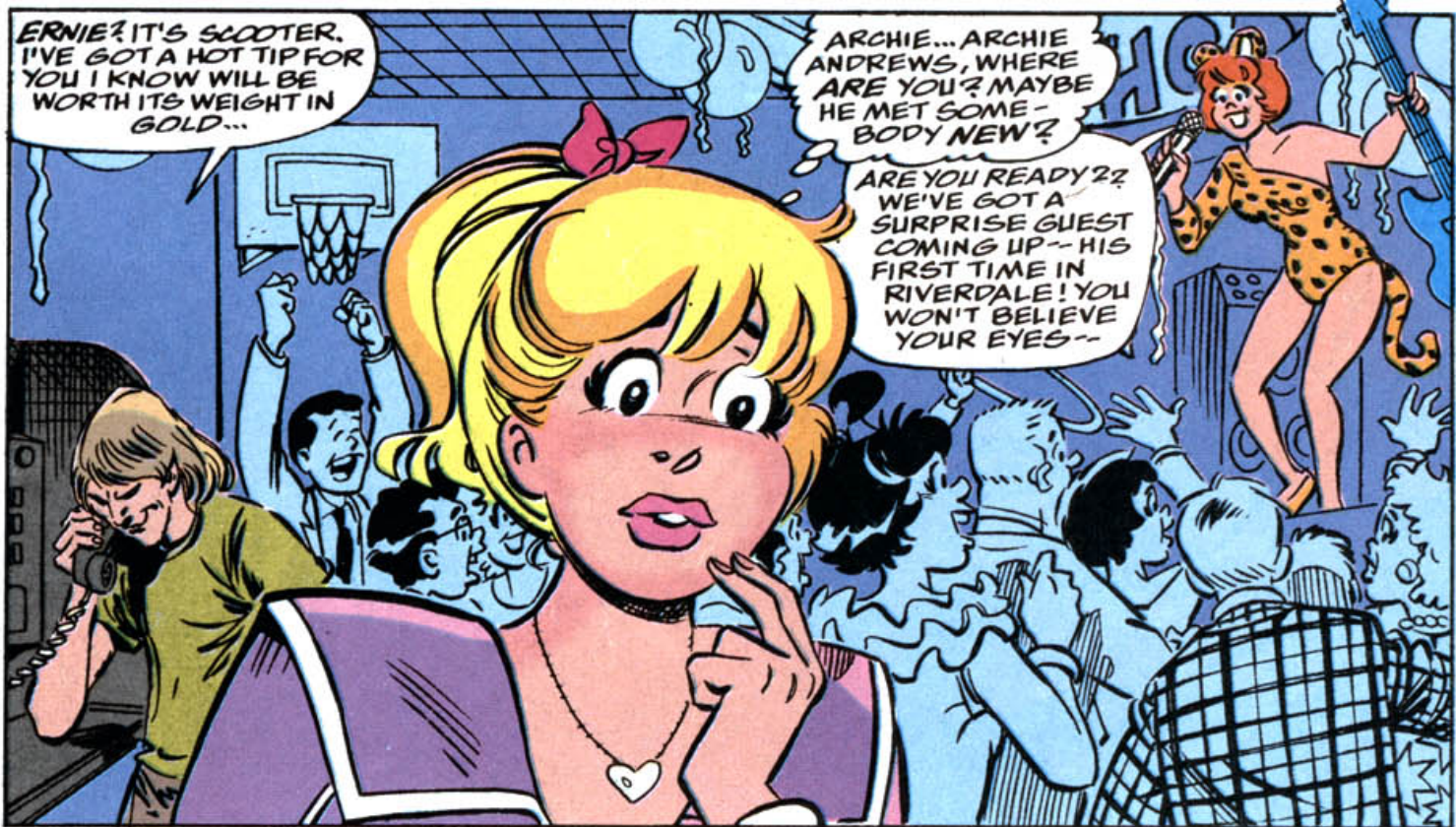
WHAT'S THAT, MRS. ANDREWS? ARCHIE LEFT FOR THE DANCE AWHILE AGO?



THANKS-- SURE, I'LL HAVE HIM CALL AS SOON AS HE SHOWS!

BYE!

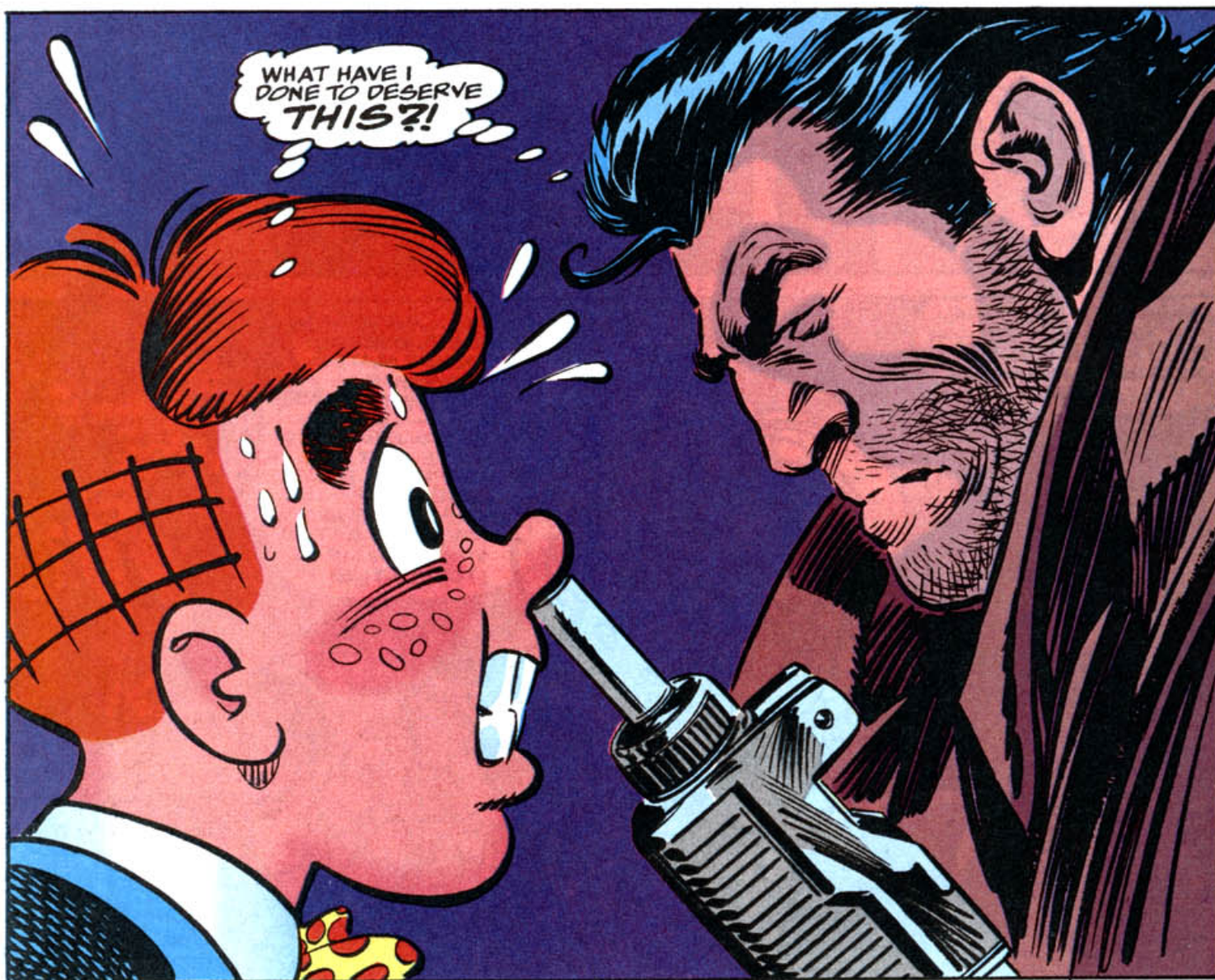
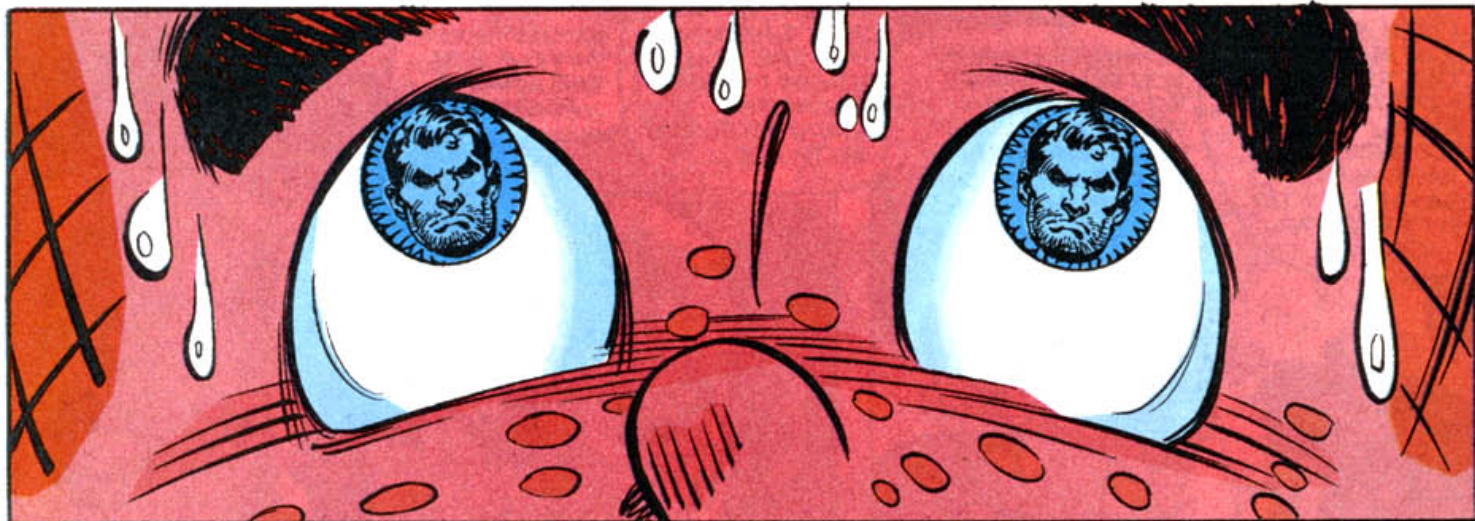
'BOUT TIME!

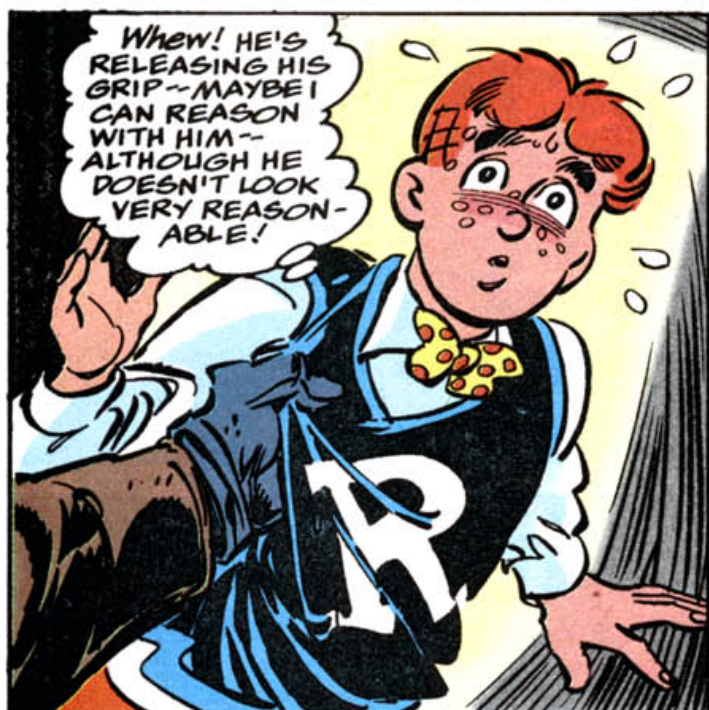
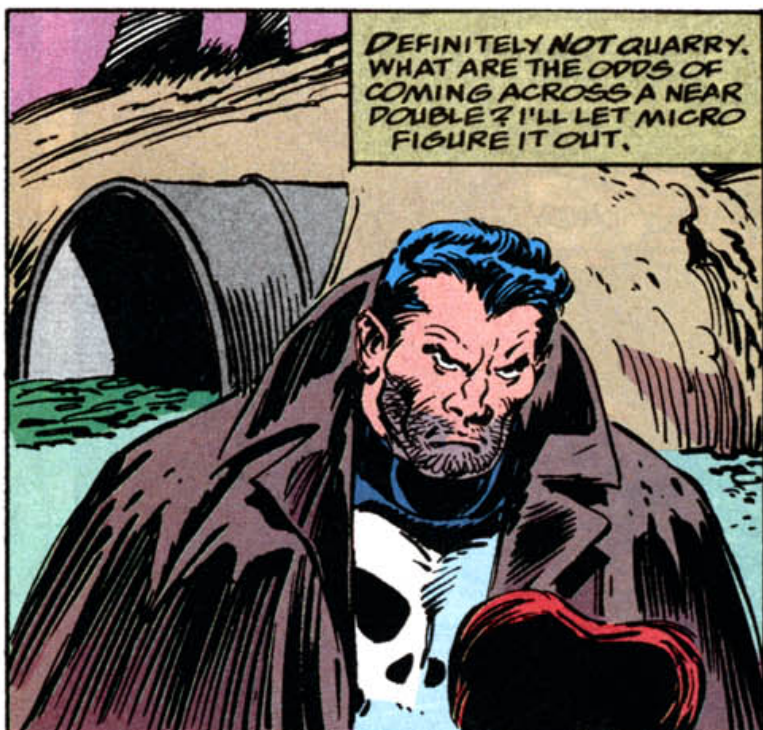
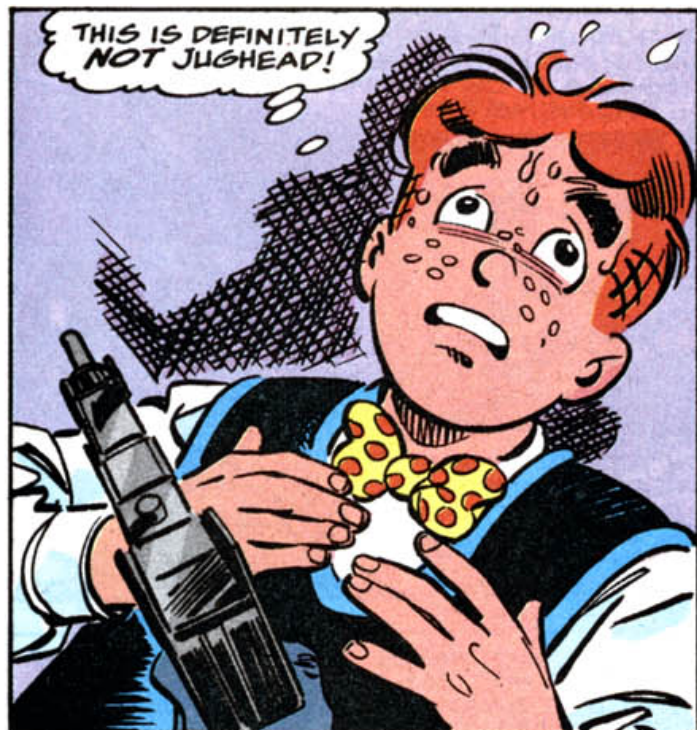


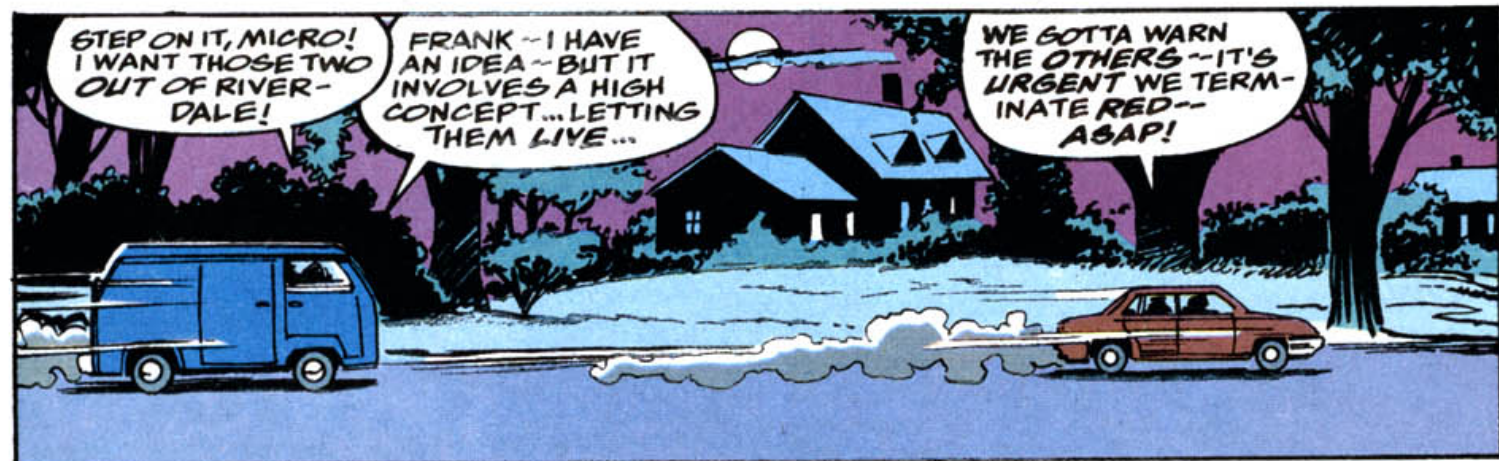
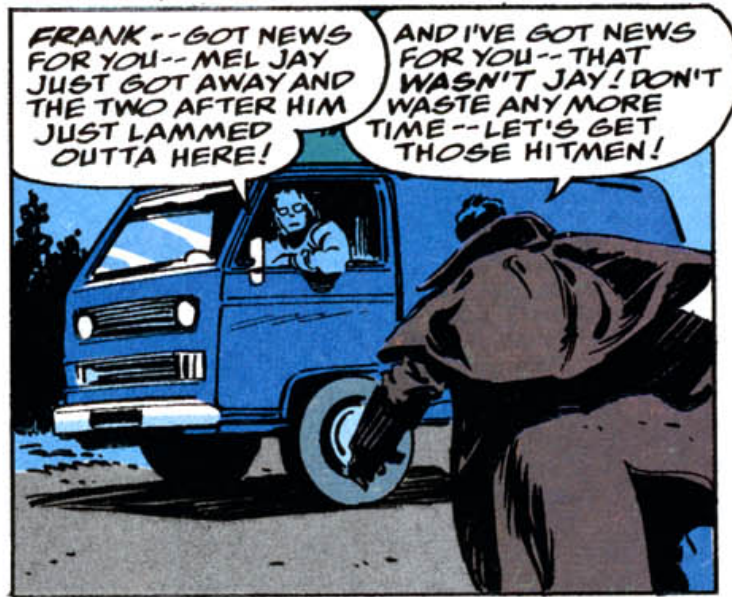
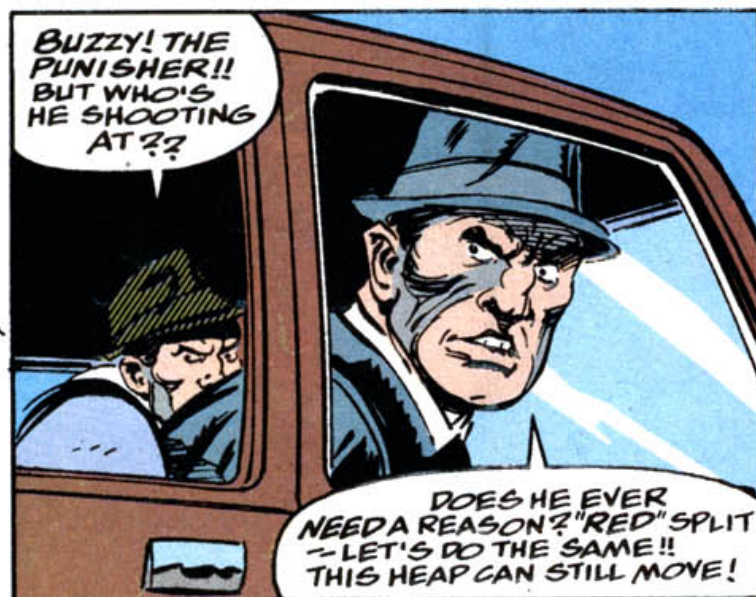
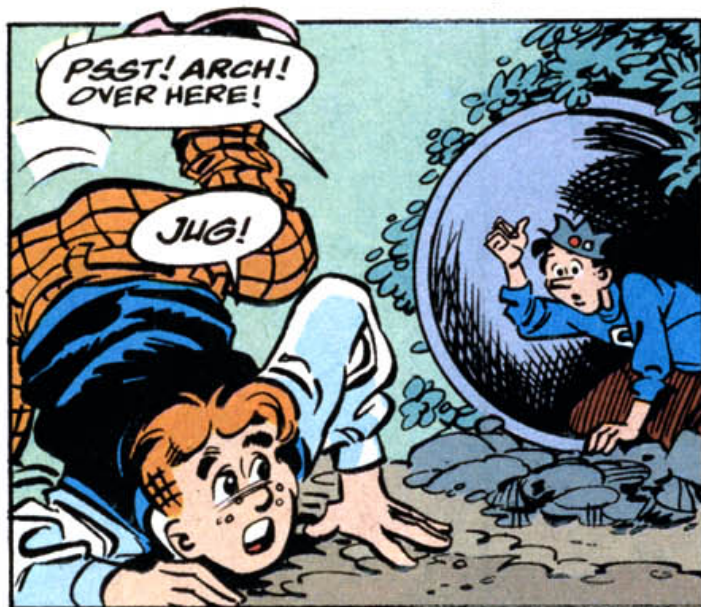
ERNIE? IT'S SCOOTER. I'VE GOT A HOT TIP FOR YOU I KNOW WILL BE WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD...

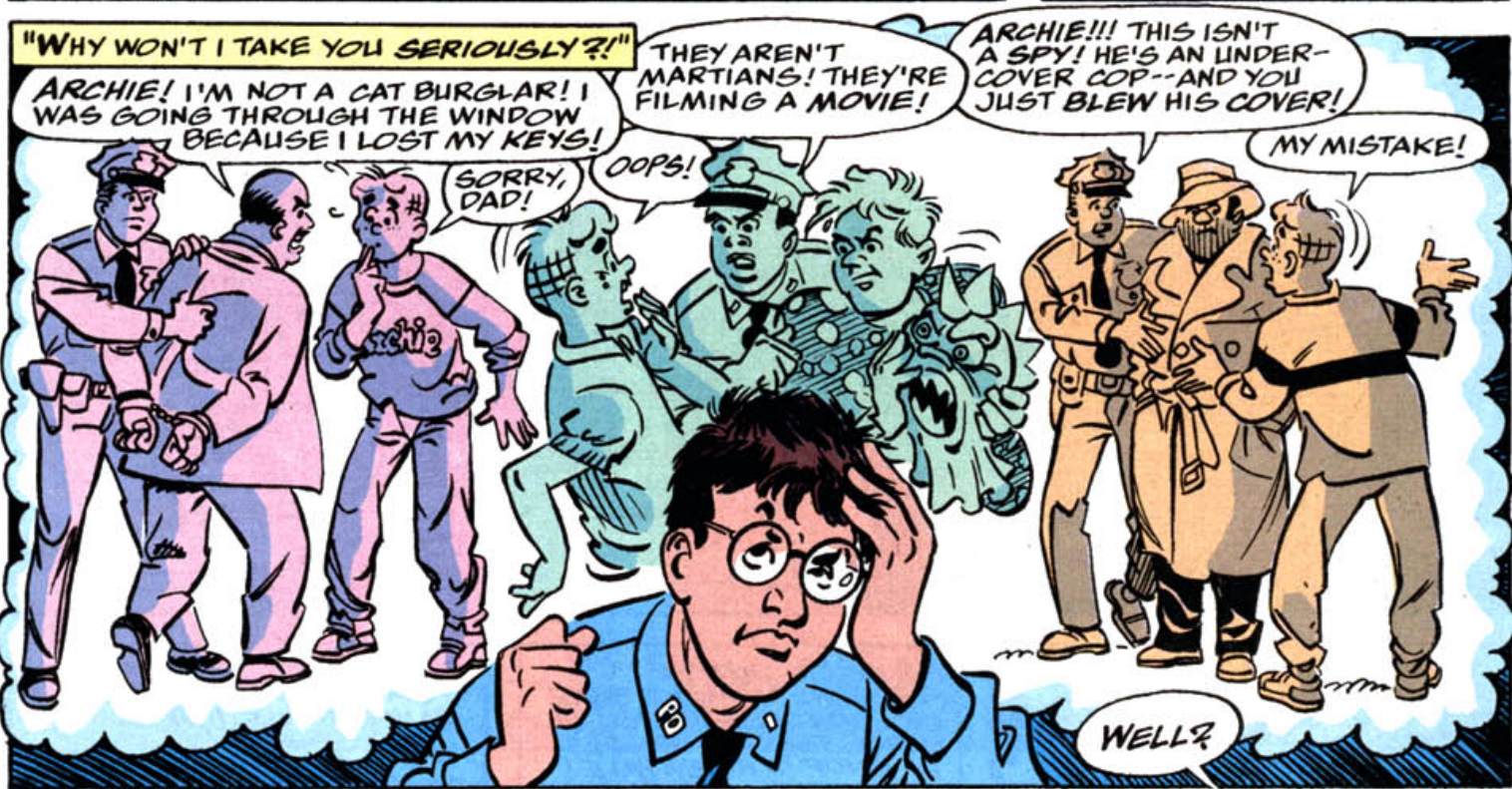
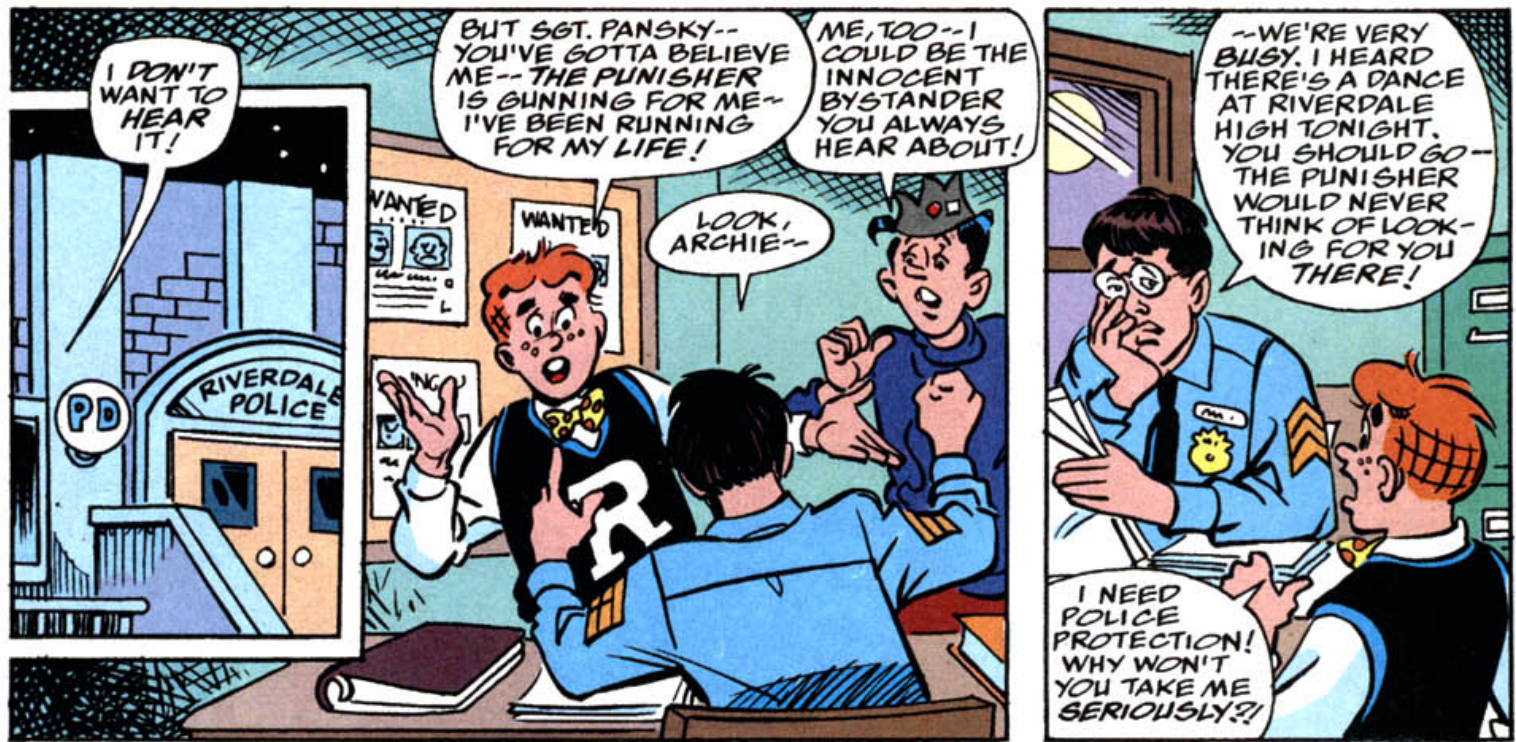
ARCHIE... ARCHIE ANDREWS, WHERE ARE YOU? MAYBE HE MET SOME-- BODY NEW?

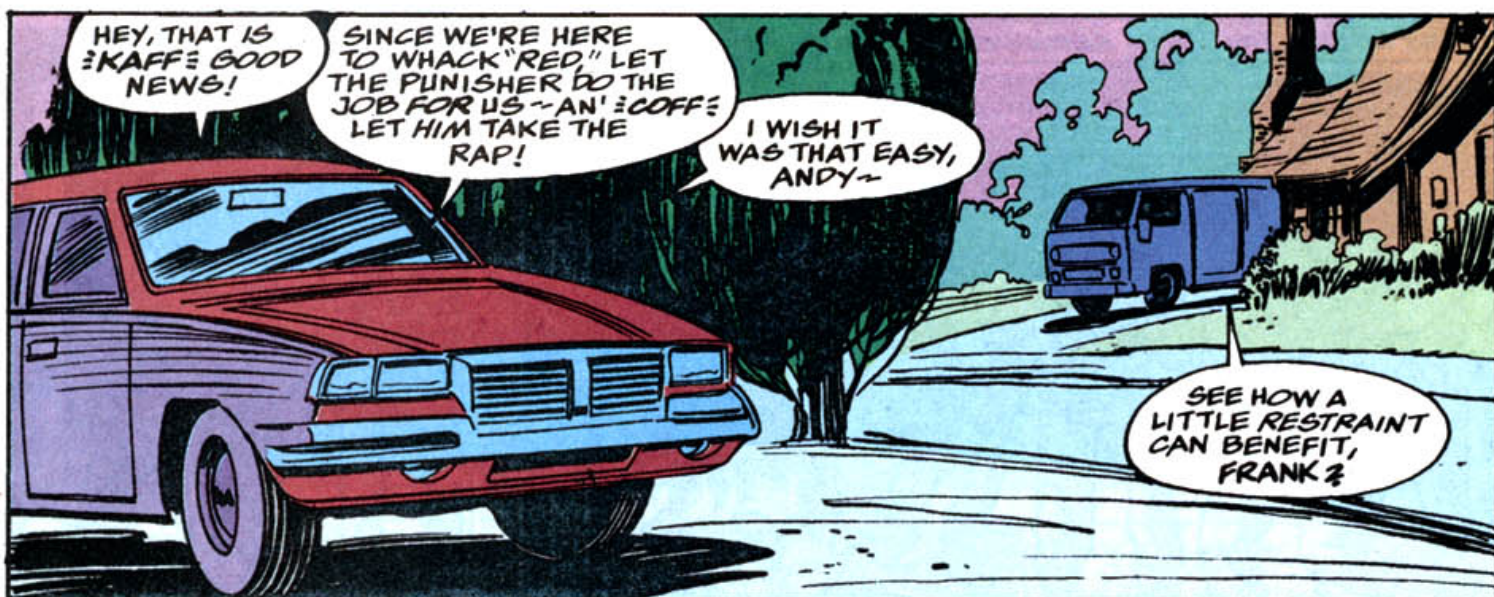
ARE YOU READY?? WE'VE GOT A SURPRISE GUEST COMING UP-- HIS FIRST TIME IN RIVERDALE! YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES--



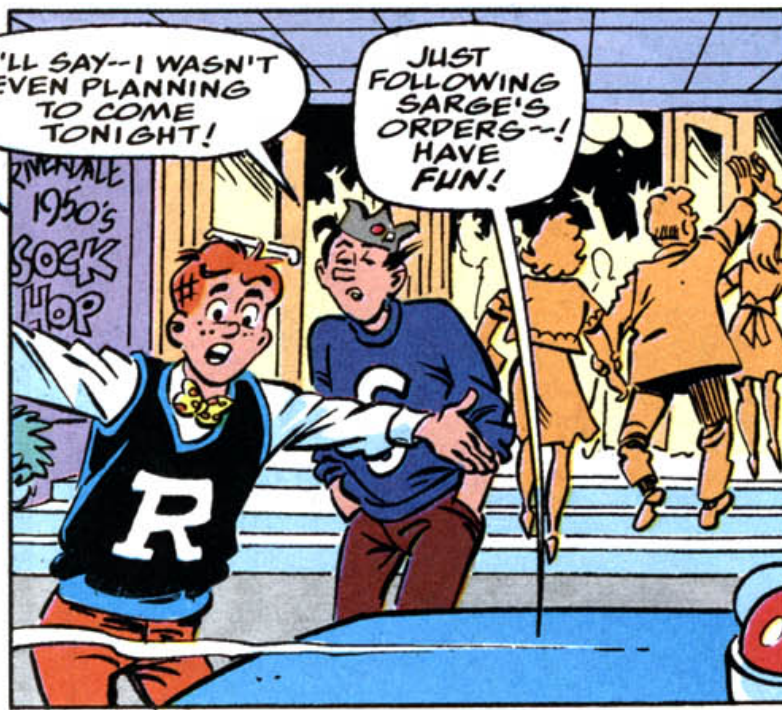
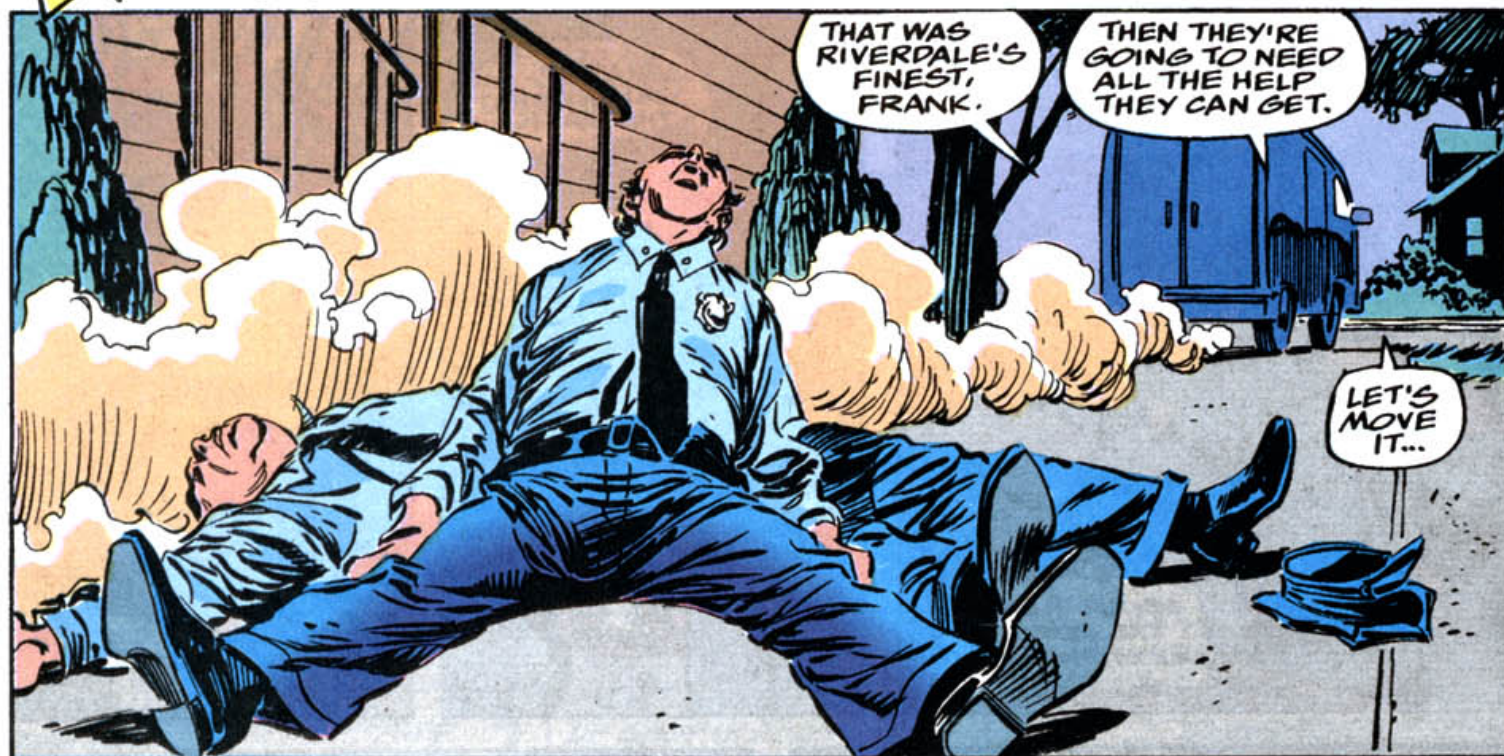
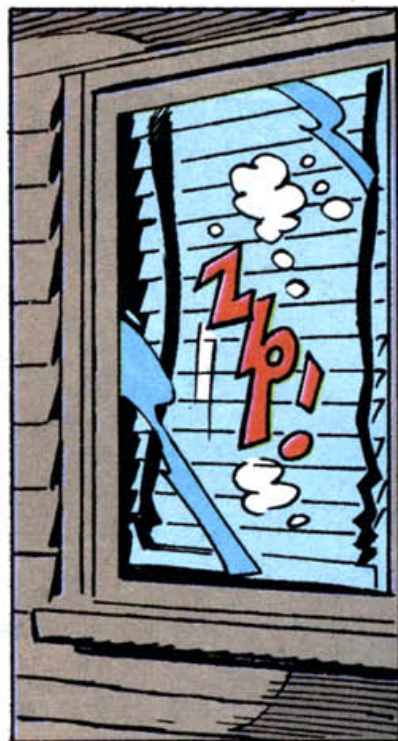
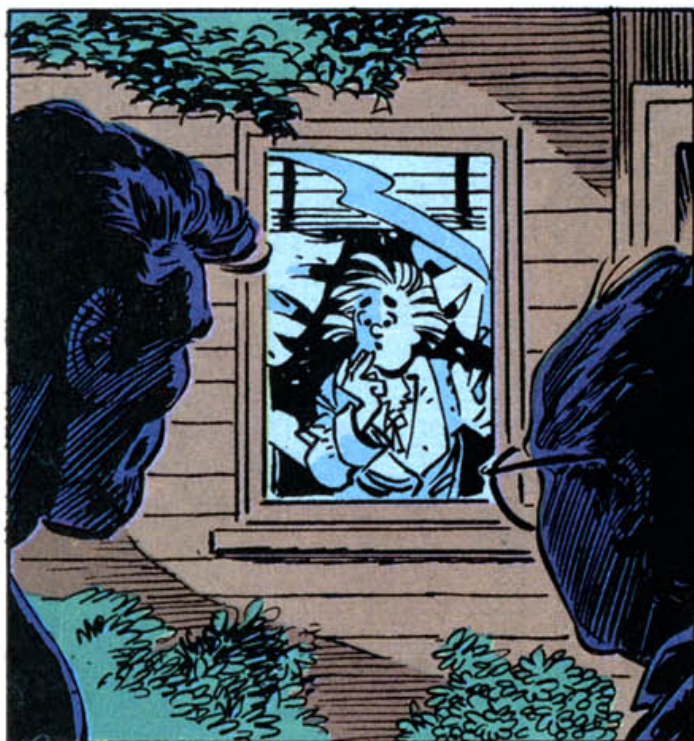


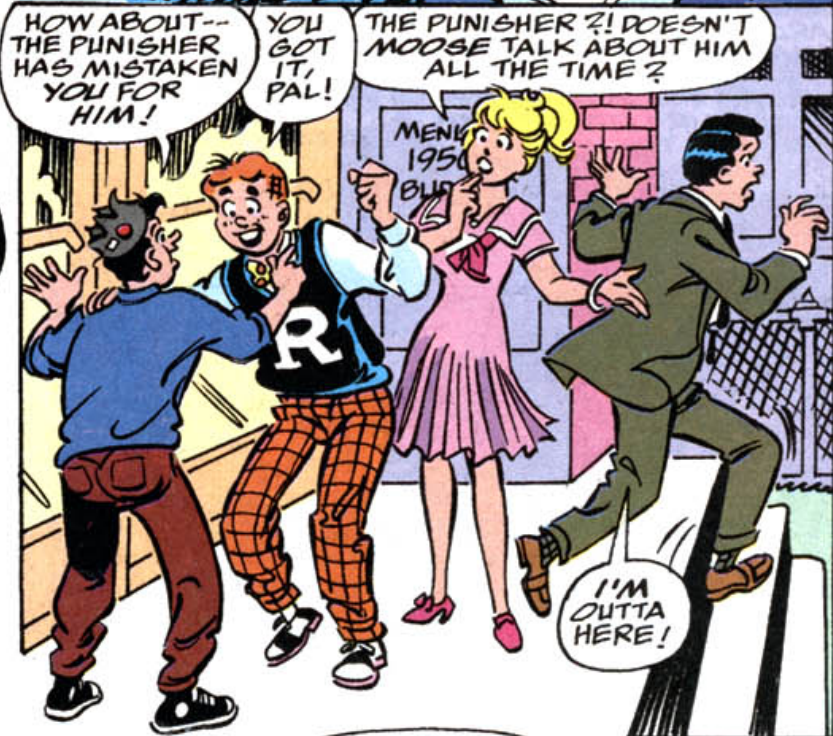
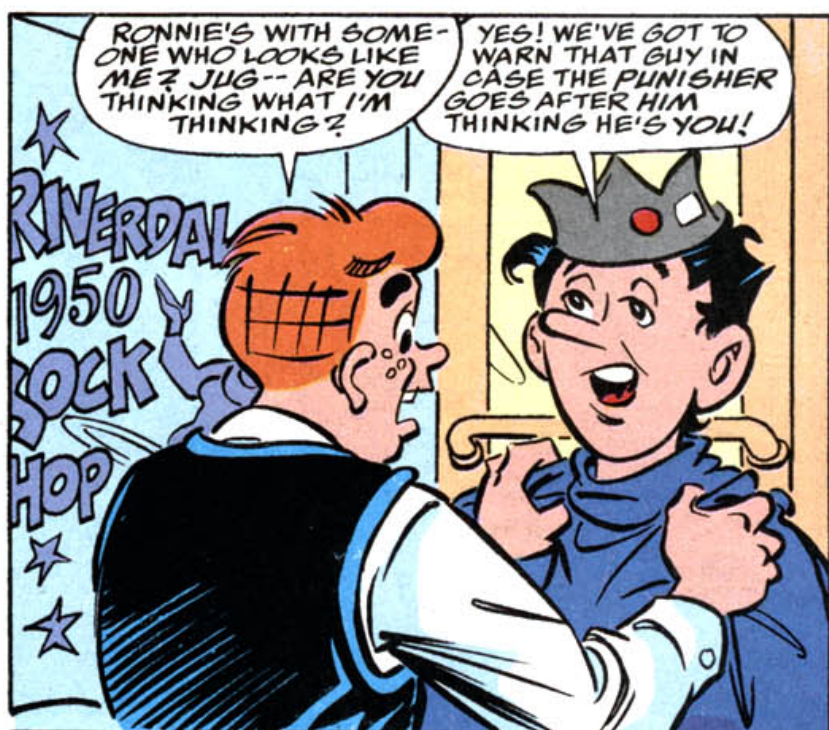
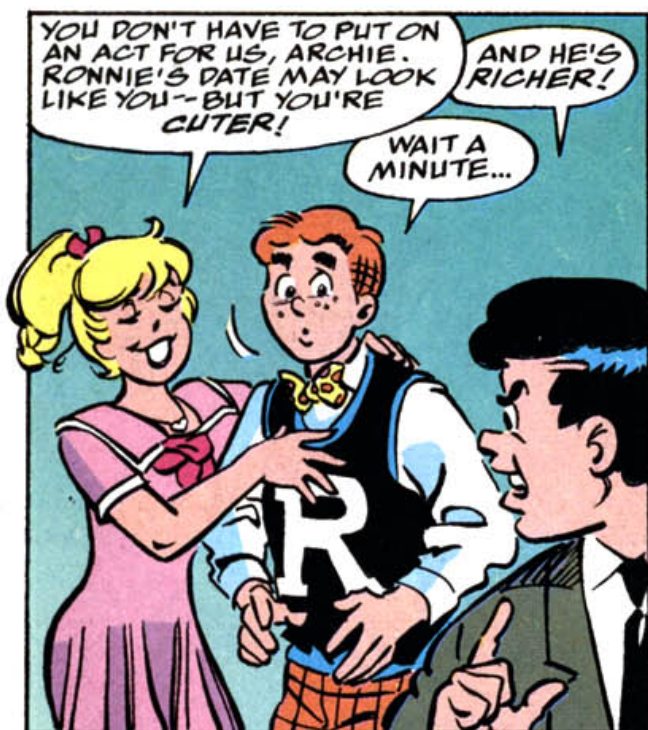


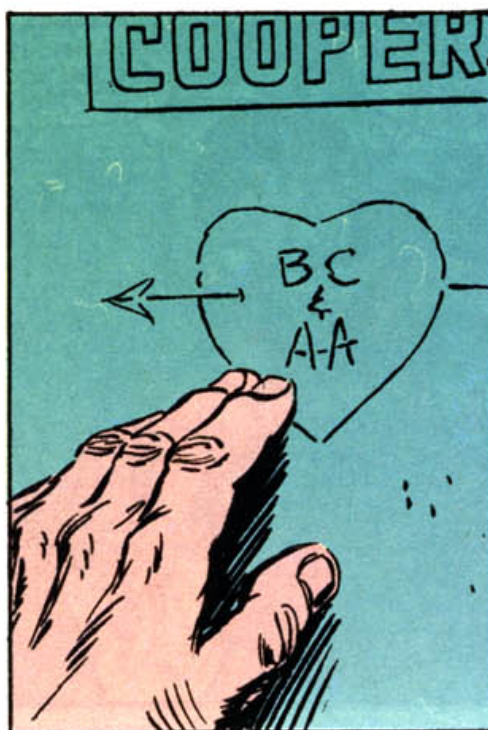


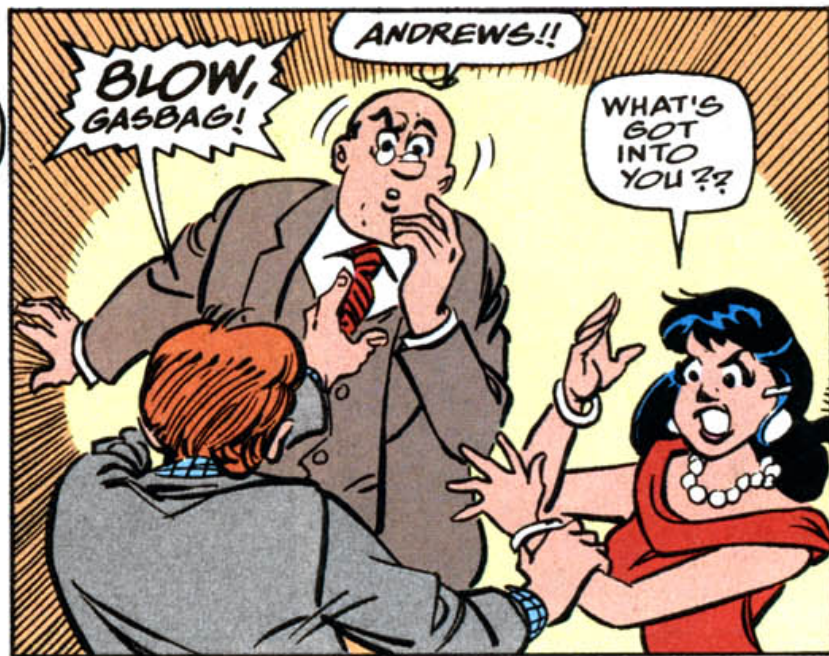


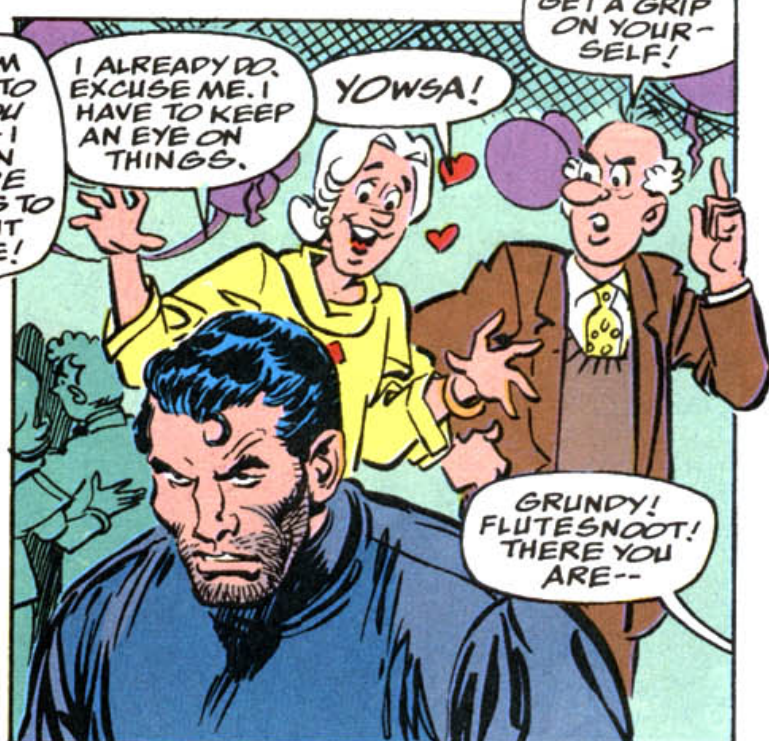
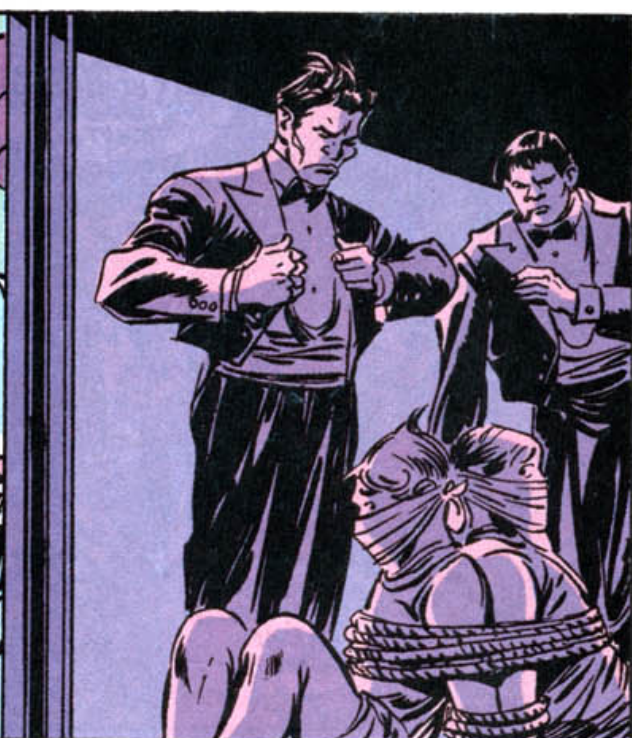


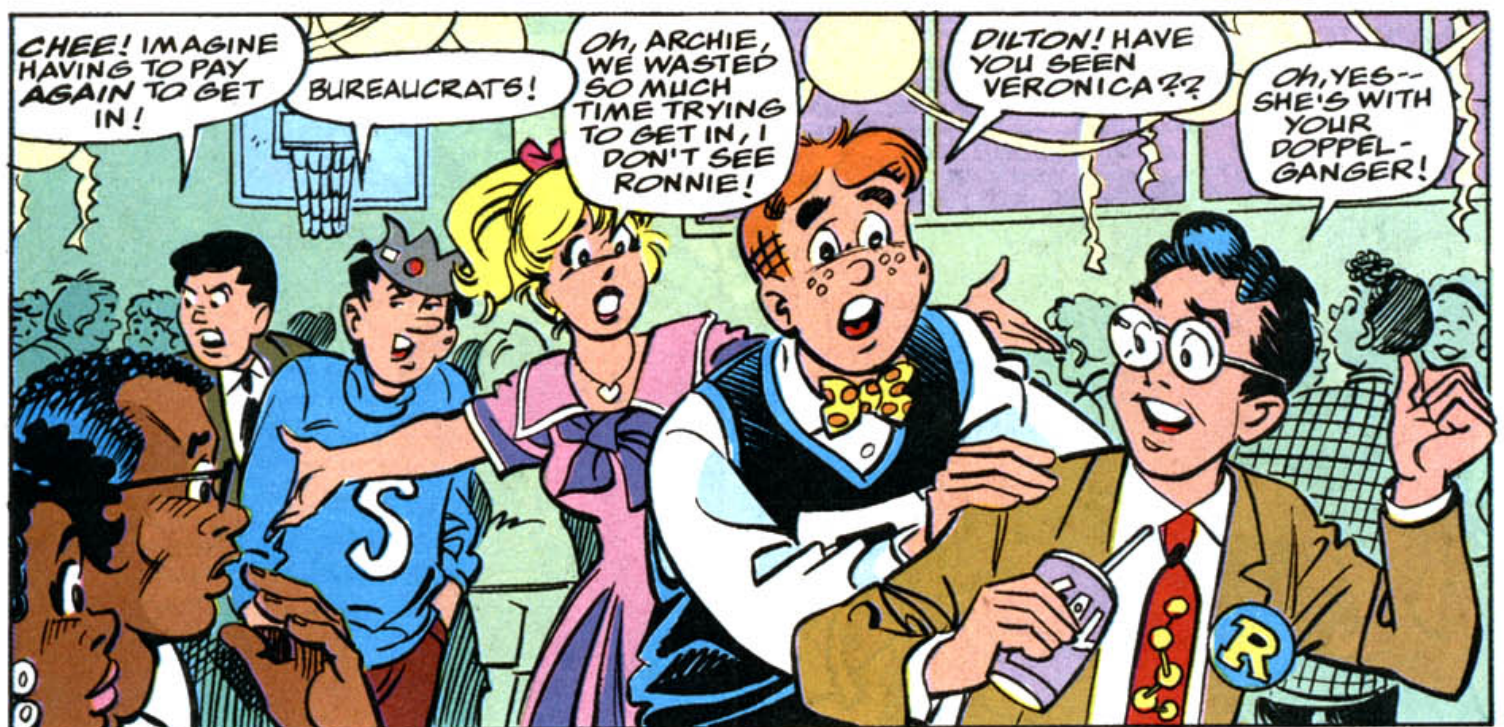
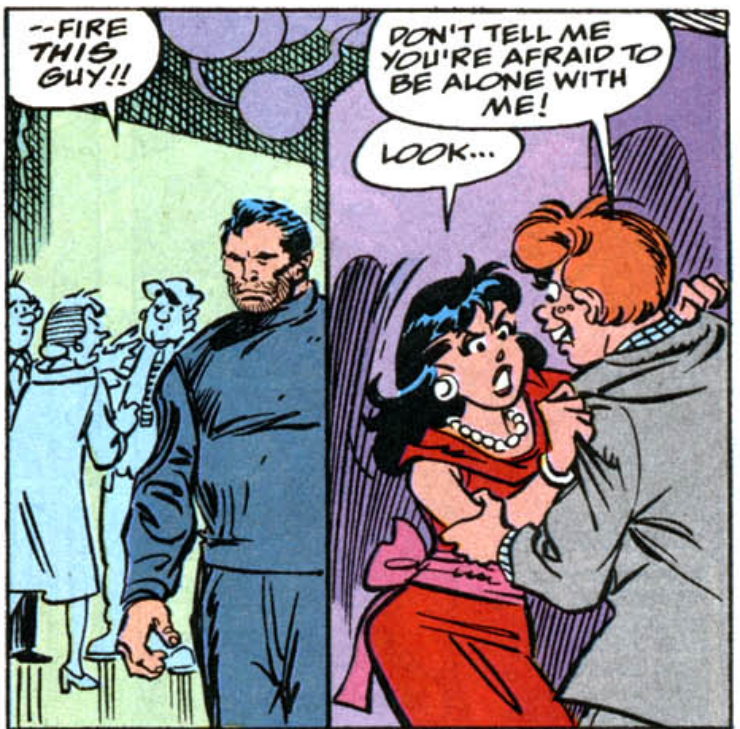








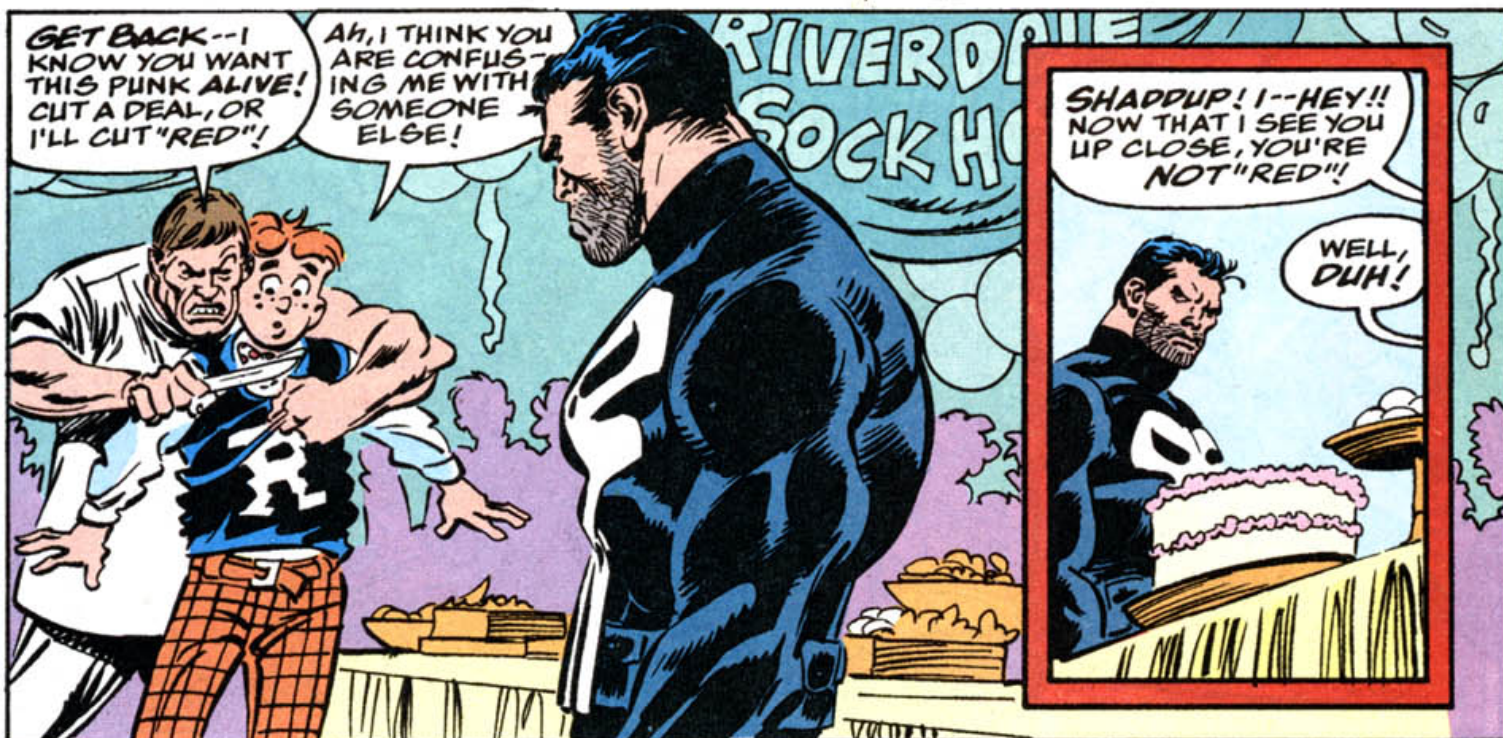


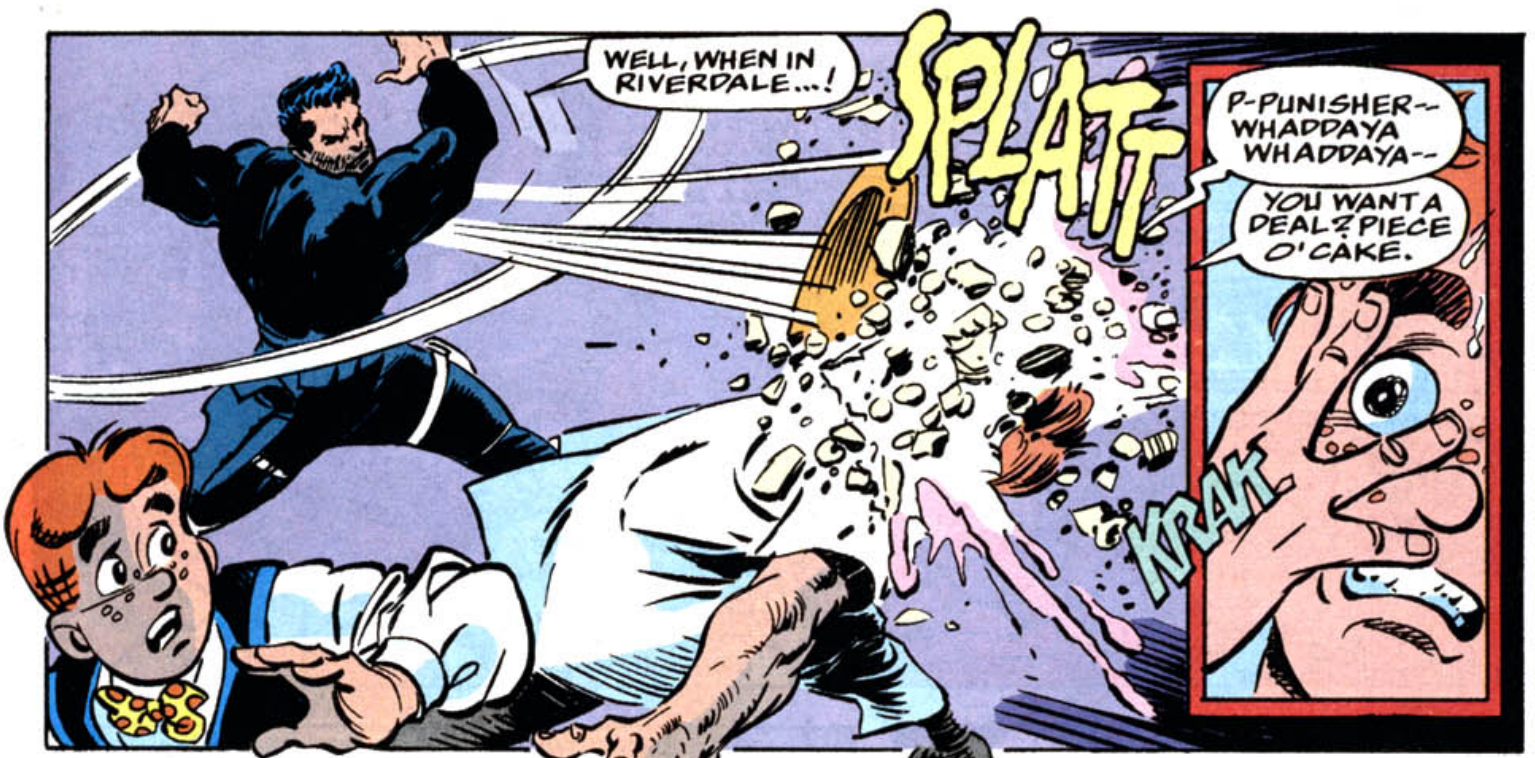


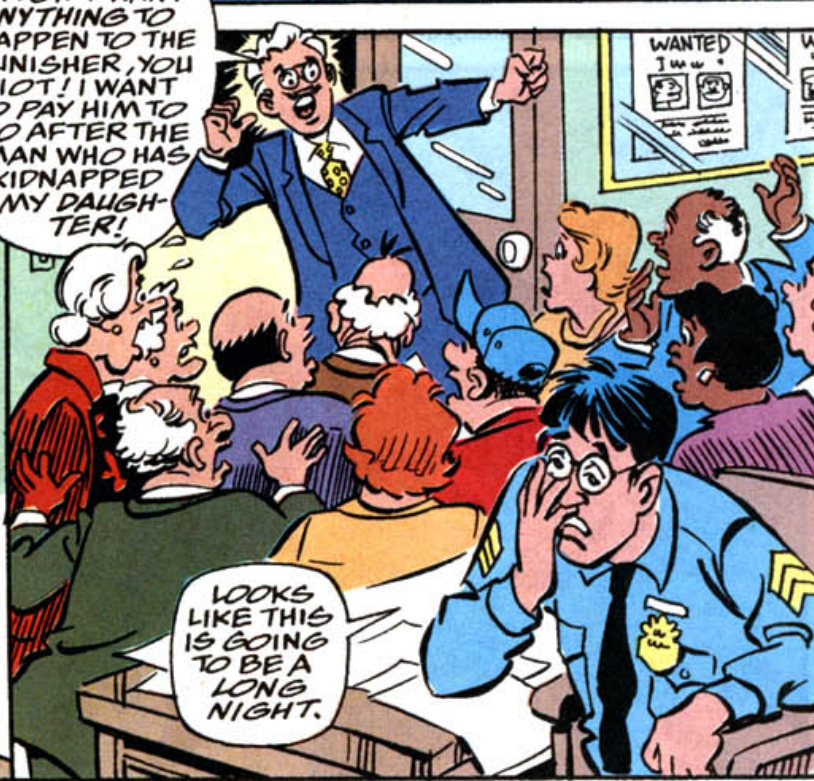
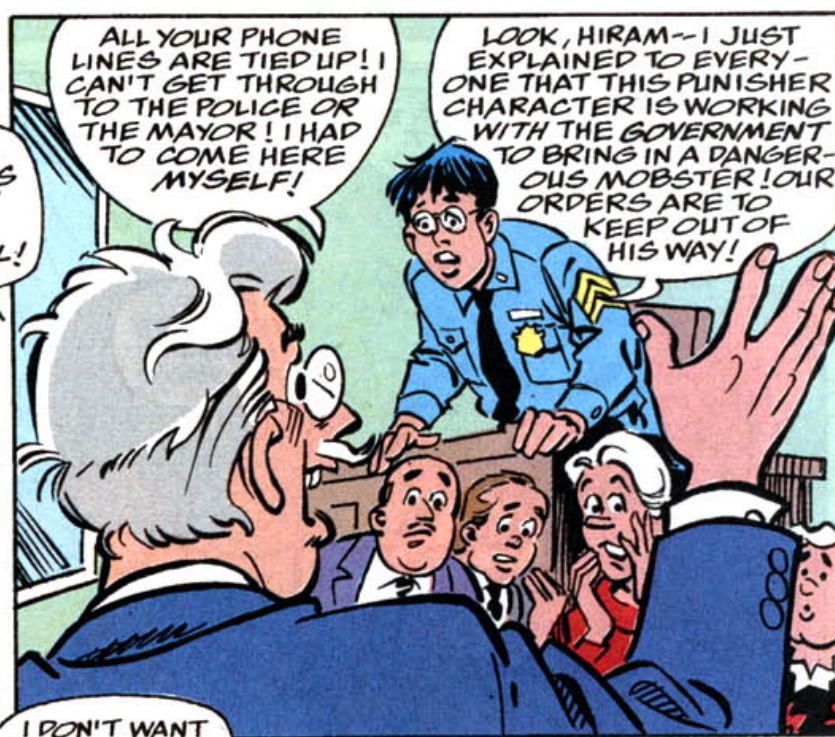
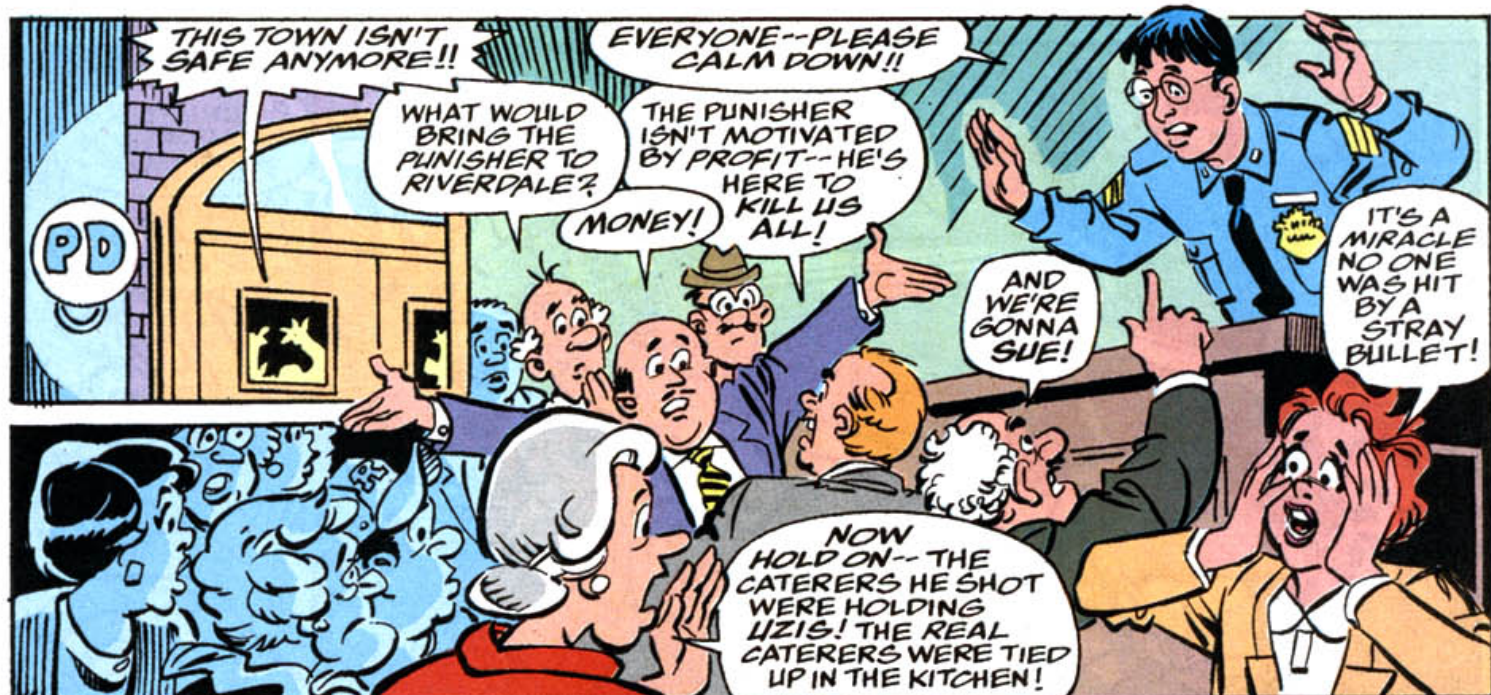












ARCHIE'S WAR JOURNAL
00001: YEAH--IT'S
GONNA BE A LONG
NIGHT...

ORDERED A CHOCKLIT SHAKE
FROM POP. HAD A FULL
EVENING--THE SHAKE WENT
DOWN GOOD. REAL GOOD.

FRANK!
HOW ABOUT
A STRAWBERRY
FRAPPE? MY
TREAT!

HE GAVE ME A LOOK
THAT SAID HE WASN'T
HERE FOR THE
DRINKS. JUST AS
WELL. RAN TAB
TO THE MAX
EARLIER
THIS WEEK.

AFTER INCIDENT AT THE
DANCE, WAS BRIEFED ON
QUARRY. MY HUNCH WAS
CORRECT--HE HAS MY
DANGEROUS GOOD LOOKS.
NOW, THAT KILLER SMILE
WE SHARE HAS PUT
VERONICA IN DANGER.
CASTLE WISELY DECIDES
TO JOIN FORCES WITH ME.

FRANK--WHAT ARE WE DOING
BABY-SITTING? ANDREWS
IS BAD ENOUGH--BUT HIS
FRIENDS, TOO?

I WANT TO KEEP
MY EYE ON HIM, MICRO--
HE'D CAUSE MORE TROUBLE
FOR US IF WE LEFT
HIM TO HIS OWN DEVICES.
AS FOR HIS PALS--EVEN
I HAVE MY LAPSES.

FOUND OUT CASTLE'S WORKING
WITH THE FEDS. UNCLE SAM GOT
RIVERDALE P.D. TO PLAY BALL.
CASTLE NEEDED BASE OF
OPERATIONS TO PLAN STRATEGY
--AWAY FROM THE USUAL POLICE
BUREAUCRACY. I RELATE. HAD
MY OWN RUN-IN WITH THE COPS
EARLIER. I SUGGESTED POP'S.

CASTLE CONFERS ON
HIS NEXT MOVE WITH
HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN.
I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL
MINE FINISHES
EATING.



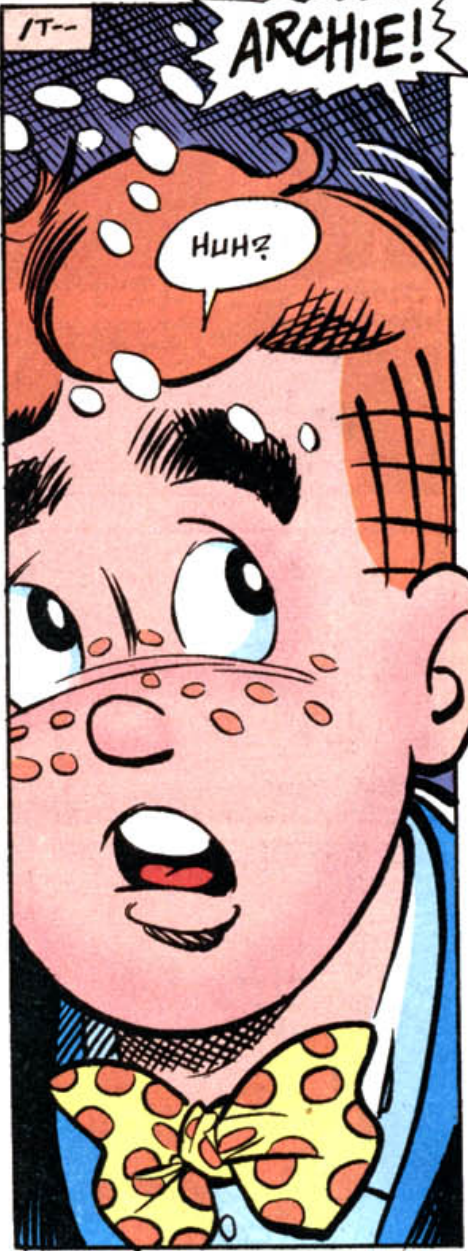
THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT
HAS INFECTED MY TOWN.
RONNIE'S BEEN
KIDNAPPED...

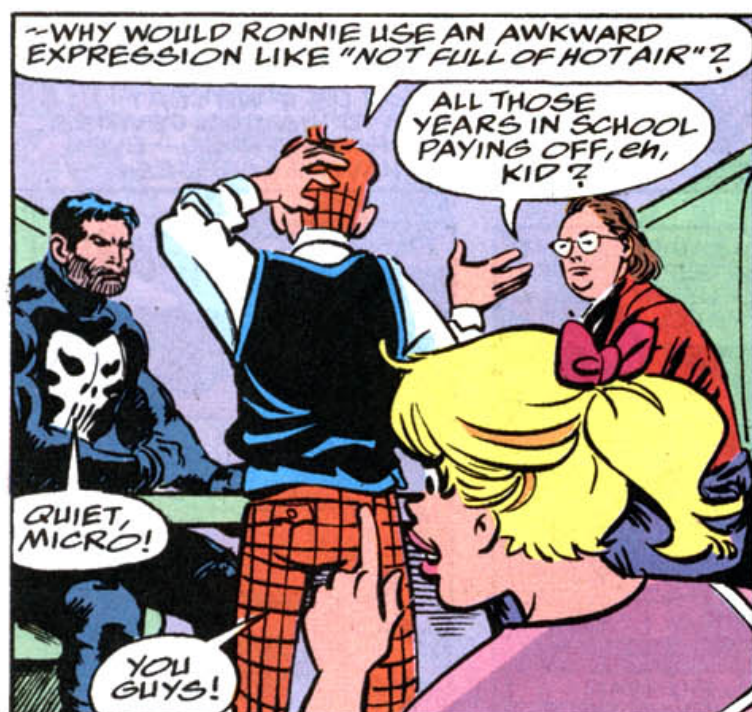
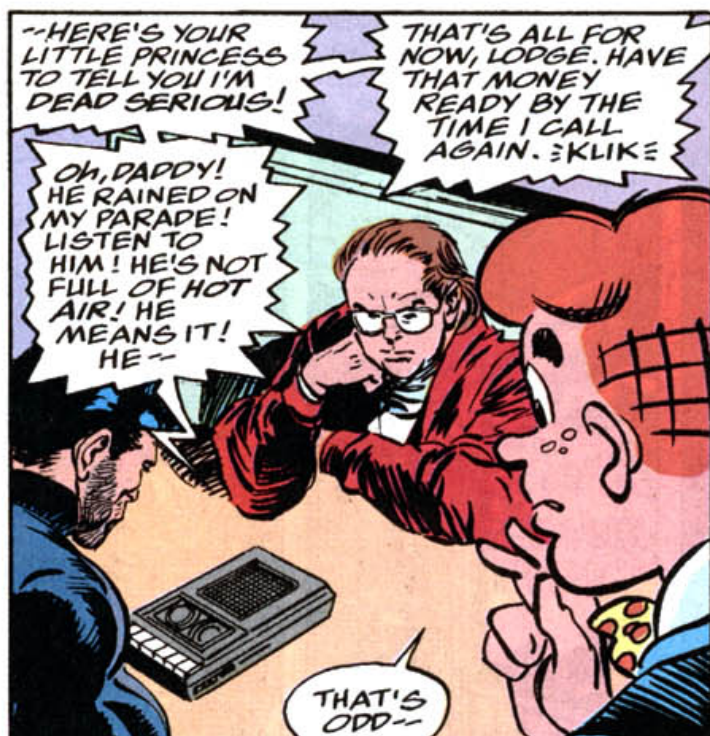
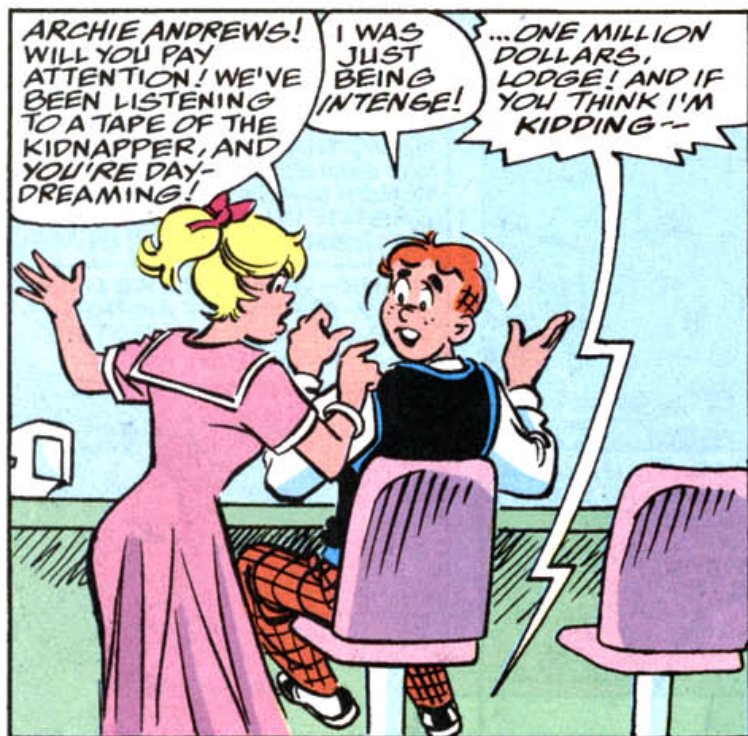
ARCHIE?

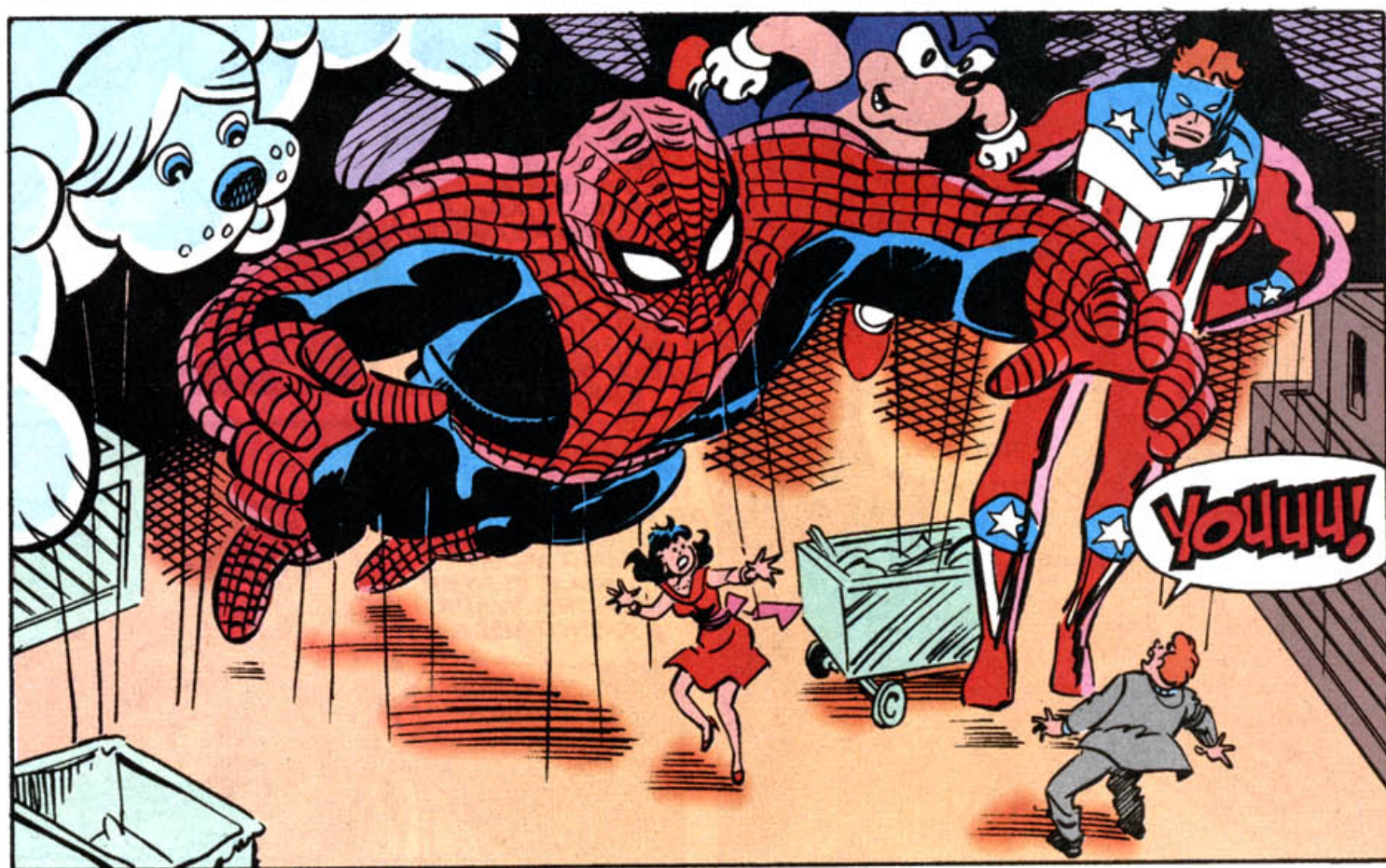
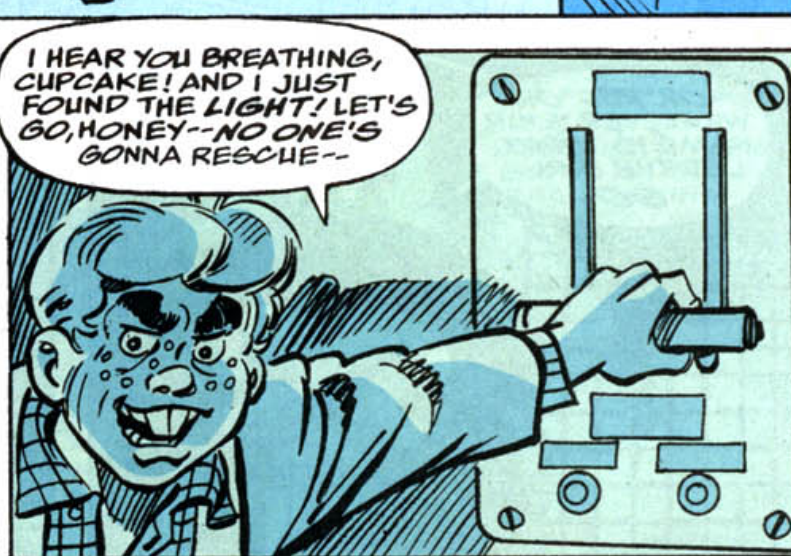
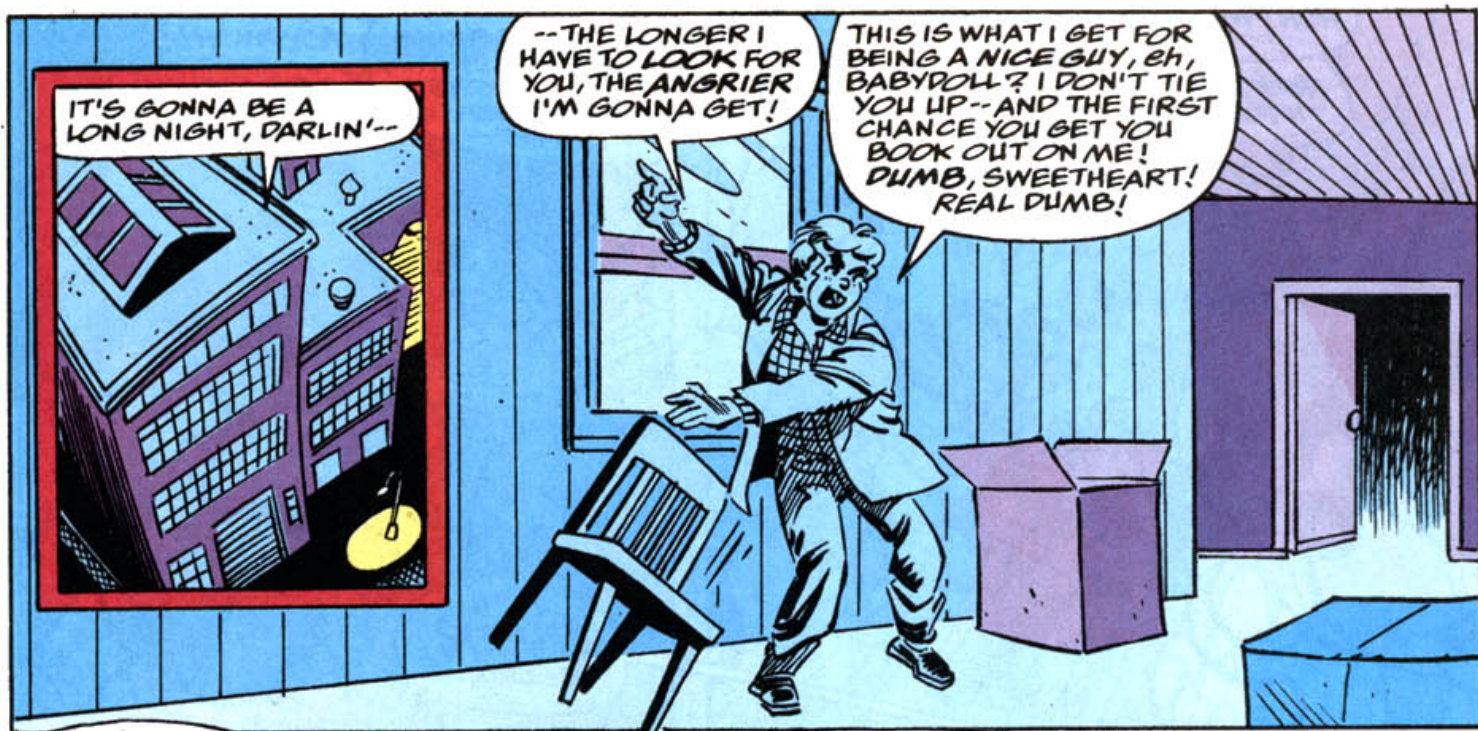
IT'S PAYBACK
TIME.

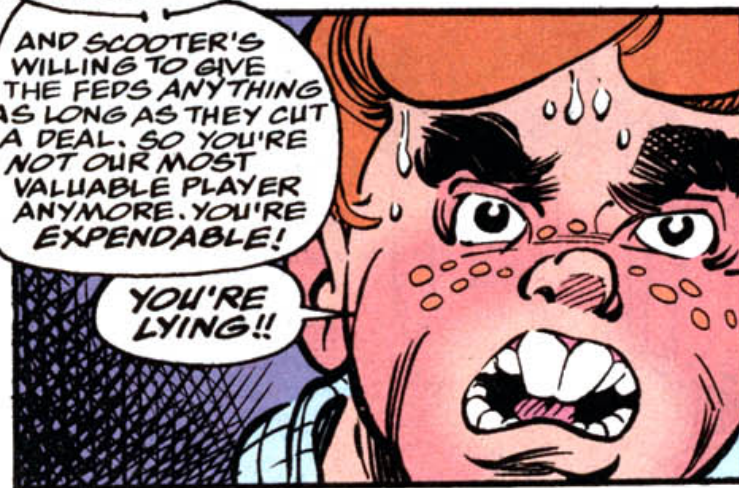
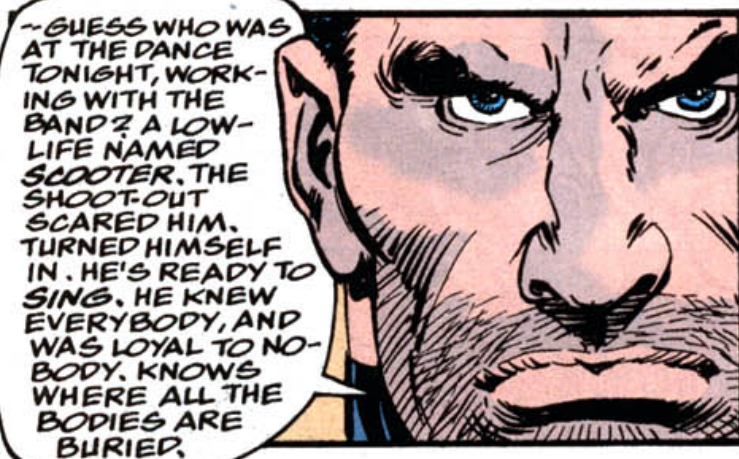
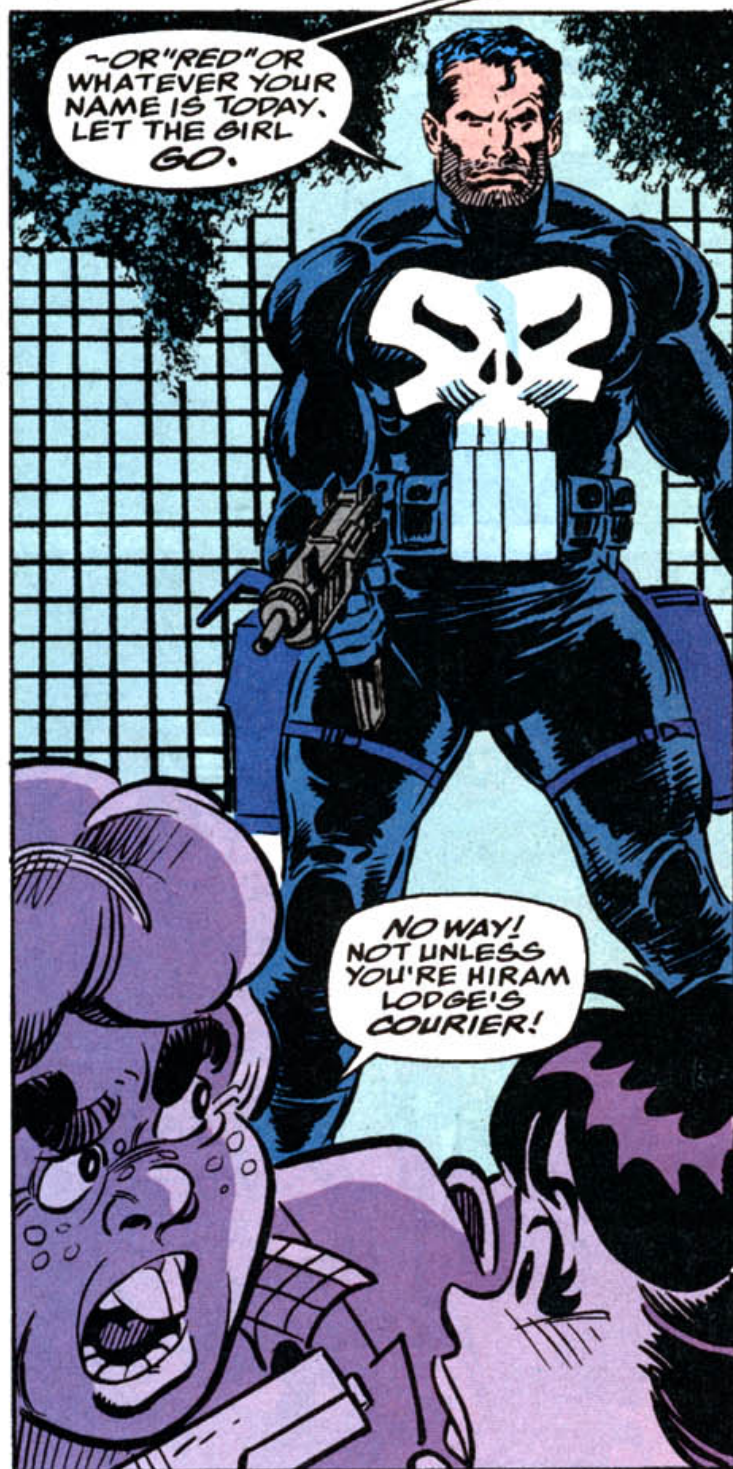
THE WAR
NEVER ENDS.

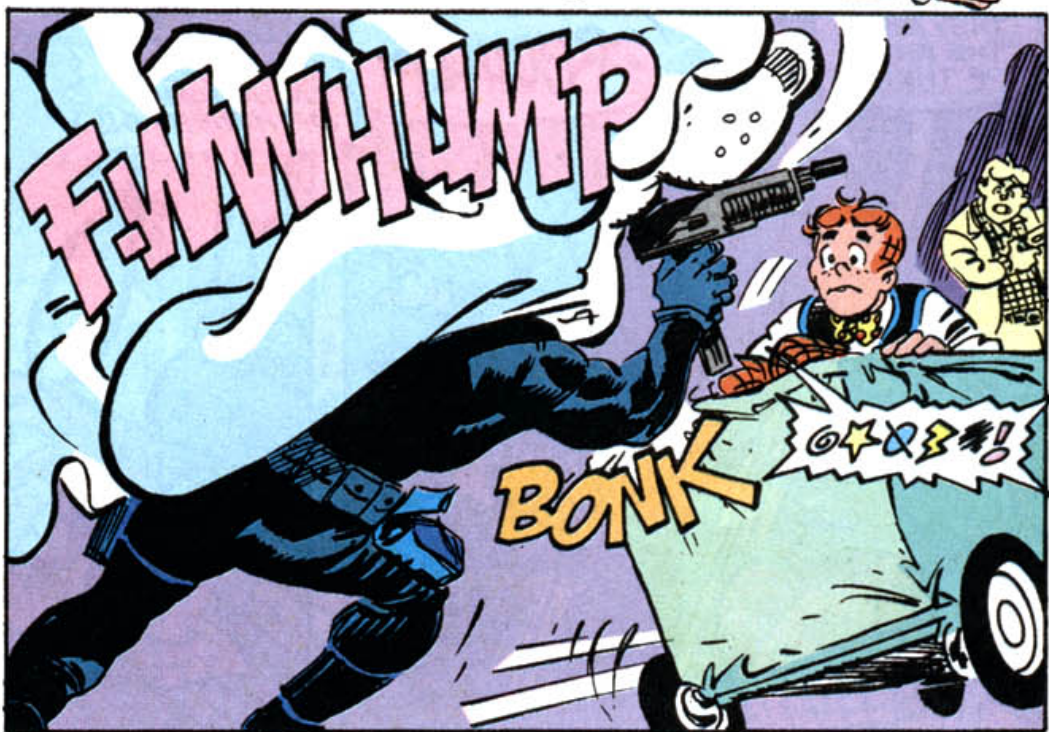
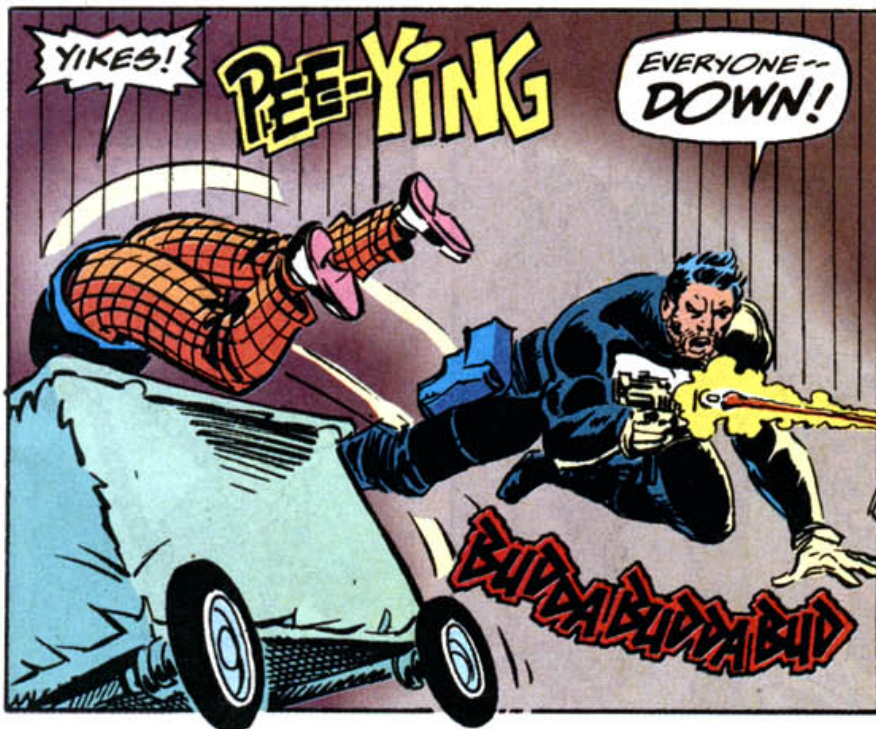
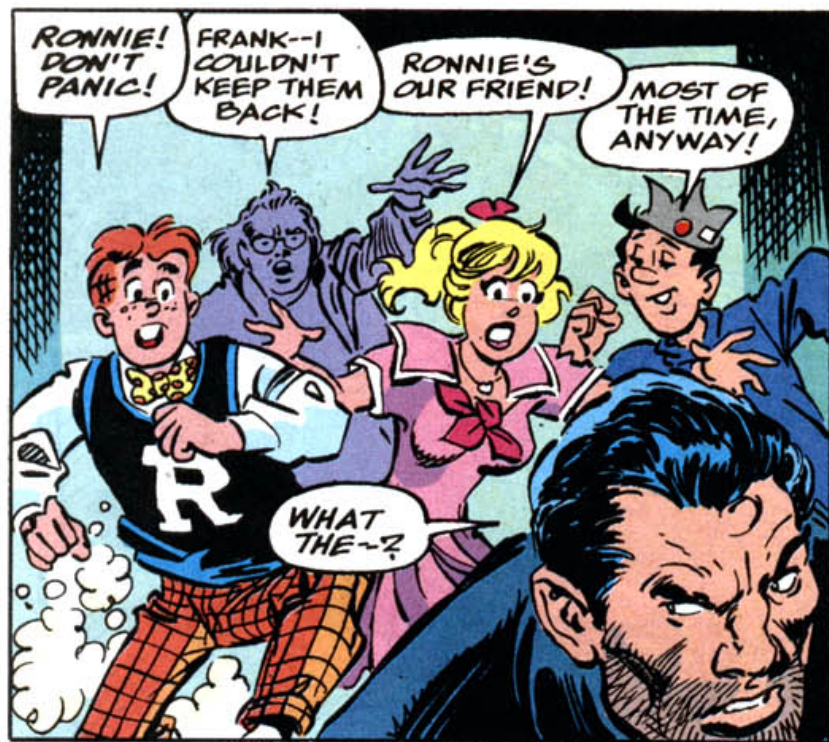
ONE ON ONE.

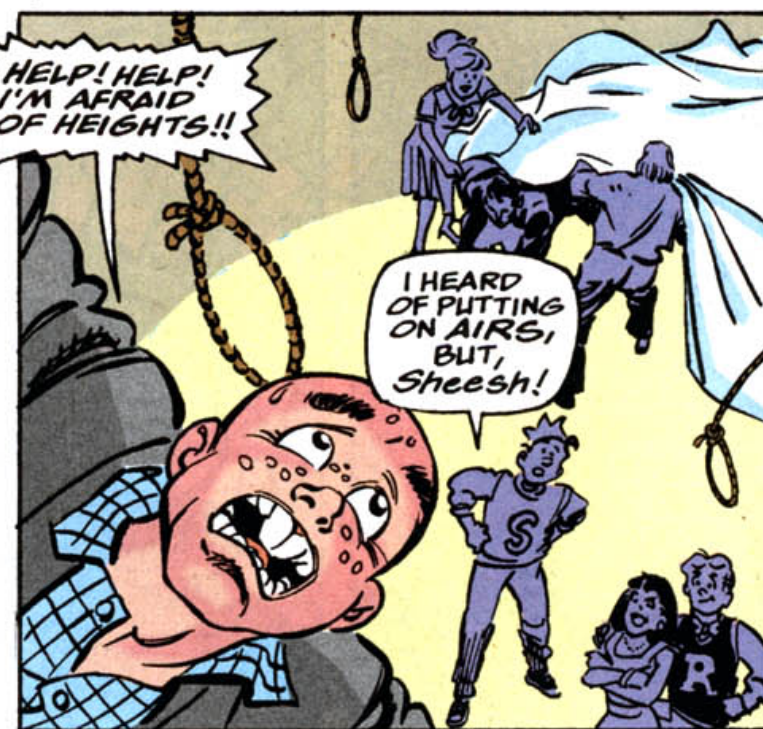
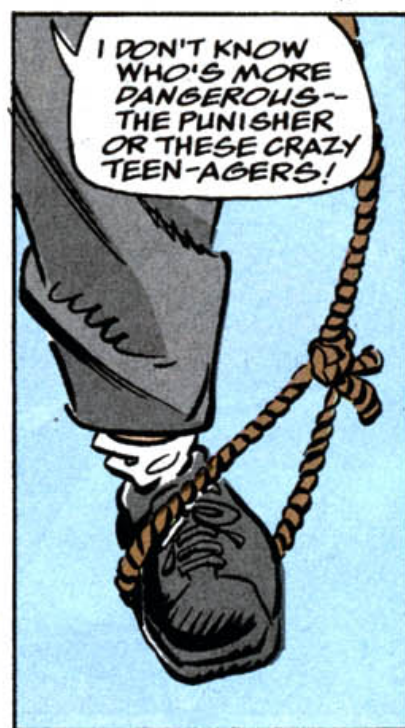
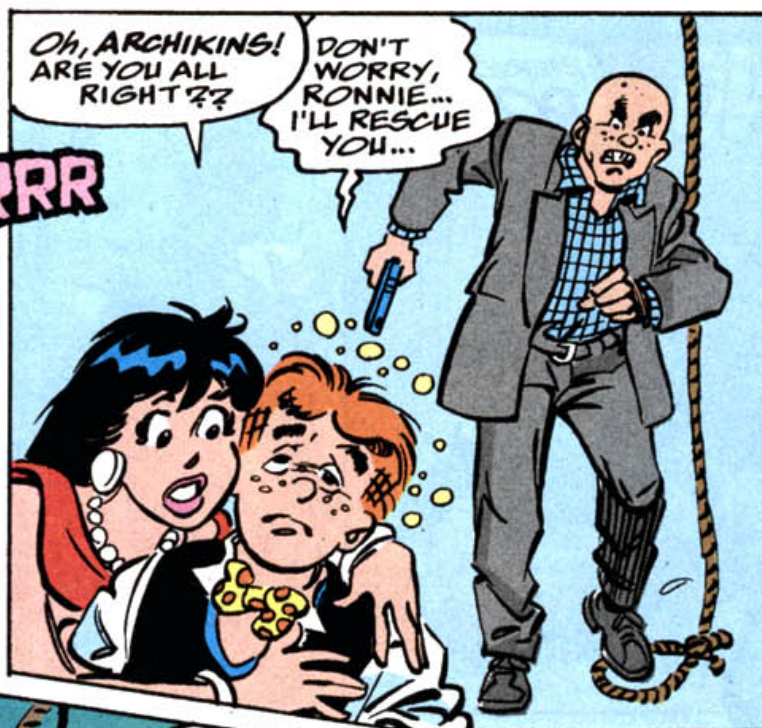
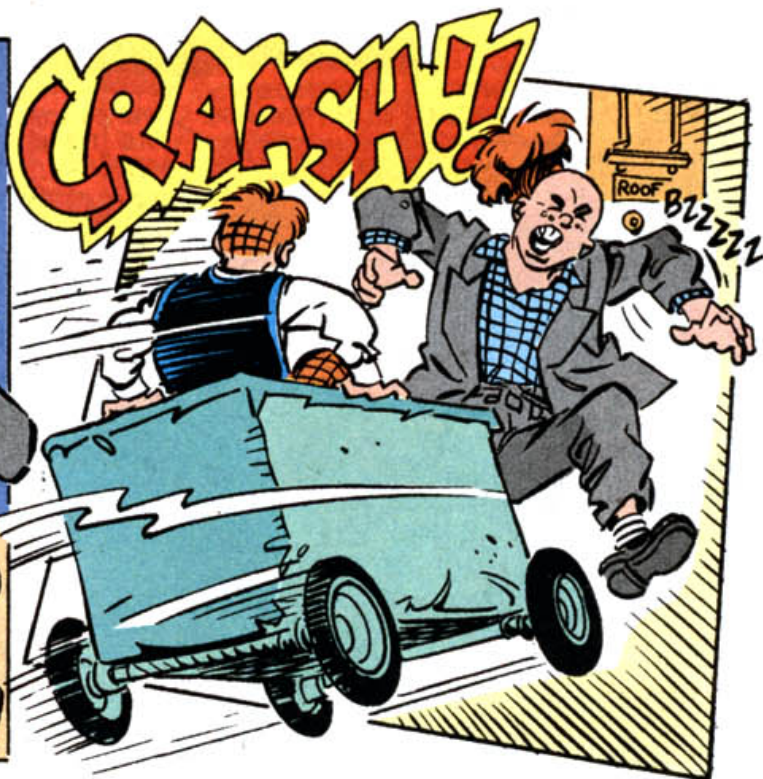
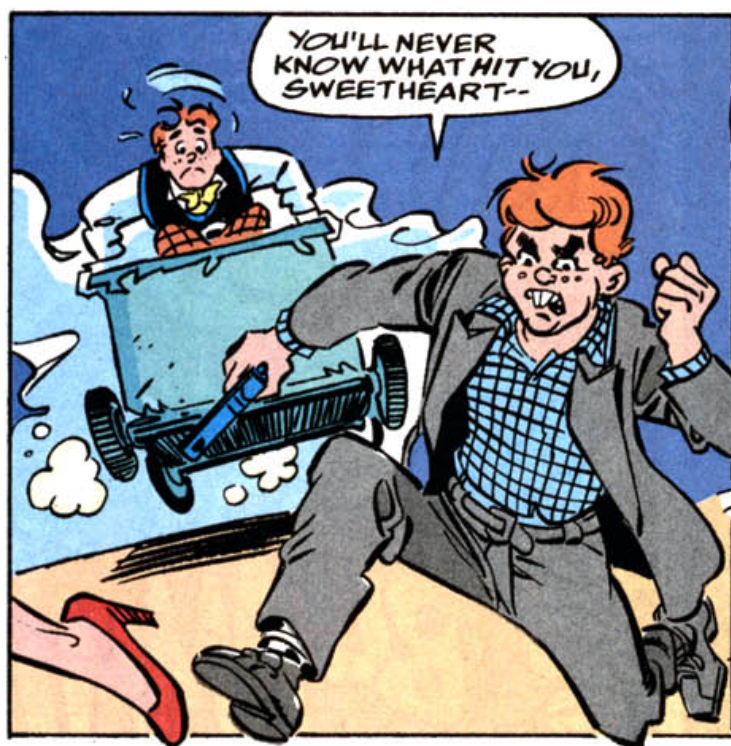












WAR JOURNAL ENTRY 06794:
CONCLUSION: LET QUARRY
SLIP AWAY. FIRST TIME FOR
EVERYTHING, I SUPPOSE.

I DID PROMISE UNCLE SAM
I'D LET QUARRY LIVE. THEY
WANT HIM, THEY CAN GET
HIM. I CAN HEAR THE
CHOPPERS NOW.

AND IF QUARRY ESCAPES?
WHAT CAN HE DO? HIS EMPIRE
IS RUINED, THE OTHER MOBS
ARE AFTER HIM, AND BEST
OF ALL--

WHATTAYA
WAITIN'
FOR?

PUNISHER!
DO SOME-
THING!!

CAN'T
BREATHE--
PIGEONS!!
I HATE
PIGEONS!

--HE'LL LIVE
IN FEAR OF
ME!

PSYCHOLOGICAL
WARFARE? FOR
THIS TIME, WHY
NOT? EVERY-
THING ELSE
ABOUT THIS
CASE WAS UN-
PRECEDENTED
IN MY WAR
JOURNAL.

ALL RIGHT!
WHAT'S OUR
NEXT CASE,
FRANK?

Betty's Diary: 6/17

There was never any-
thing like it in the
history of Riverdale,
the day the Punisher
came to town...

Just about the whole town
stayed up all night to see if
Ronnie was okay and catch a
glimpse of Frank (he told me
to call him Frank!). We all
celebrated with an early morn-
ing breakfast at Pop's... That's
the funny thing... I got the
feeling Frank didn't really want
to leave. My dad says Frank's
a psychopath, okay, maybe he
is a tad hostile...

YOU GIVE ME
A SIGNAL
WATCH, SEE--?

...but if the Punisher's the bad guy people say
he is, he'd never have put up with Archie
all night!

THAT WAY, I
CAN CALL YOU
WHENEVER
THERE'S
TROUBLE!

I DON'T
THINK SO.

IT'S BEEN
REAL ARCH,
BUT NOW I'VE GOT
A VERY SPECIAL
LADY TO THANK...





RIVERDALE HIGH SOCK-HOP★

I KNEW
THERE'D BE A
CHAPERONE
- BUT THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!

THE TEAM-UP YOU THOUGHT WOULD
NEVER HAPPEN - AND ARCHIE AND
THE PUNISHER WISHES YOU WERE RIGHT!

STAN ELLER

